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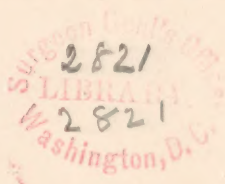
FIRST ANNUAL MESSAGE

OF

ALEXANDER HENRY,

WITH THE

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.



FIRST ANNUAL MESSAGE

1861

ALEXANDER HENRY,

BY THE

AT OBTAINING DOCUMENTS

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FIRST ANNUAL MESSAGE.

To the Select and Common Councils
of the City of Philadelphia,

GENTLEMEN :—A review of the past year affords abundant cause of congratulation for the unwonted exemption of the city of Philadelphia during that period from public calamities. No general tumult has disturbed its quiet; no extended conflagration has consumed its wealth; the lives of its citizens have been spared from unusual casualty, and desolating pestilence has been withheld from its midst.

It is of the great goodness of Him who ruleth over all men and who holdeth the elements in his keeping, that our city has been thus favored, and our thankful acknowledgments should be rendered for such, His merciful Providence.

The duties imposed upon the Councils of Philadelphia are of a peculiar, and perhaps unprecedented nature. The consolidated city includes an area of greater extent and diversity than has heretofore been brought under one municipal government. Public interests of more than ordinary magnitude are hence devolved upon the City Councils, and are calculated to engross their attention to the neglect of those lesser concerns of municipal legislation which are necessary for the immediate welfare of the citizens, whilst the circumstances and wants of different portions of the community are so dissimilar,

that it is impracticable to establish regulations for universal observance. Ordinances well adapted to the thickly settled and permanently improved parts of the city would be unmeaning or injudicious if extended over its rural districts, and the special enactments that may be required for these latter, would in the former be wholly inapplicable. The great number and contrariety of Ordinances relating to the same subjects, some of which are in force throughout the city, others only within the bounds of the municipalities in which they were enacted, whilst a few are restricted in their operation to parts of such municipalities, must necessarily produce confusion and difficulty in their due administration. An early revision and codification of existing ordinances is recommended as highly important to the welfare of the city. Although a distinction must be maintained between the built and rural districts, all ordinances should respectively be of general obligation throughout such districts, and different laws should not obtain on opposite sides of the same street, as is the case in many instances at present. Additional power should be vested in the appropriate authorities for the better enforcement of the city ordinances. With but few exceptions, the only punishment for their infraction is a fine, which in many cases cannot be collected from the offender who thus may, and frequently does, persist in their violation with impunity. A moderate fine in each instance, and in default of its payment, the penalty of a short imprisonment, would greatly promote the observance of municipal regulations. The enactment of such penalty is not within the power of Councils, but if in their opinion its provision would be salutary, it should be asked for from the Legislature of the State.

Among the important powers entrusted to the Mayor is that of the entire appointment and almost unrestricted control of the police. The administration of this department of the city government, as at present constituted, necessarily occupies

his chief attention, and in a measure interferes with that general and constant supervision of the municipal affairs which was designed by the act of consolidation to characterize his office. The selection of a police force, whether from former incumbents or from the numerous applicants for appointment, necessarily requires much of the time and attention of each Chief Executive for a long period after entering upon his duties. The grave responsibility which attaches to the discharge of this duty, does not permit of its being properly devolved by him upon others, yet his opportunity for making inquiry of the merit and capability of applicants for this public trust, is far less than would content any prudent man in the selection of agents for his individual business.

The system which I have recently adopted of requiring all applicants for police appointments to undergo a careful examination by the Chief of Police and two Lieutenants, has afforded a more reliable estimate of personal qualifications than could otherwise be readily obtained. The present police arrangements and the general efficiency of the force will, it is believed, compare favorably with those of any preceding period since the consolidation of the city. But after a careful examination of the existing system of police, and in view of its serious and manifold defects, I cannot forbear from urging upon the attention of Councils the importance of a change in the mode of its organization. It is made the duty of the Mayor to recommend the adoption of such measures as he may deem expedient for the security and welfare of the city—and no measure will, in my estimation, tend more to the advancement of these important interests than the appointment of a police force to serve during individual capability and good conduct. The sole object of every system of police should be the maintenance of public peace, and the safeguard of person and property. Such object, to its full extent, can only be attained by a well informed and thoroughly

disciplined body of men selected for their moral and physical qualities, and induced by certainty of position and remuneration to devote themselves to the duties of their office. If a situation on the police force is sought only as the temporary means of livelihood, or is, at the best, regarded as an appointment of uncertain duration, it cannot be expected that its officers will feel that interest and complete identification with the service which is essential to its efficiency.

A modification in the appointment of the police force, which under the Act of Consolidation is vested solely in the Mayor, and the exercise of that power by a Board of Commissioners, I deem of primary importance. It must be readily apparent that no chief magistrate, however earnest and single may be the devotion of his time and energies to the public welfare, can, in the proper discharge of his other important duties, give that careful scrutiny to the merits and qualifications of the numerous applicants for appointment, which shall insure a correct choice. If his whole time and undistracted attention could be dedicated to this single duty, the selection of 712 officers, the number constituting the present force, must still prove a task of more than usual perplexity. But when he is, to a great extent, compelled to rely upon the partial testimony of those advocating the appointment of friends—is continually deceived by the misrepresentation of interested advisers—and is unable to have more than a momentary interview with each one of several thousand applicants, it will require a superhuman intuition to avoid mistaken estimates of individual fitness. A police board, constituted of four or more experienced citizens, of which the Mayor should be, ex-officio the president, could bring to the discharge of this momentous duty the advantages of leisurely action, careful inspection, and prudent deliberation. In the creation of such Board of Commissioners, care should be had that it should be composed of those whose intelligence, experience, and above

all, whose integrity should be the guarantee of their faithful administration. Such Board should fairly represent the interests of the whole community to the exclusion of all partizanship or political bias, that the appointment of officers may be made with sole reference to their individual qualification. The views of a policeman upon the policy of a State or National administration, cannot make him either a better or a worse guardian of the public peace, or the more or less careful watchman over private property, whilst nothing can be more reprehensible than his employment for the purpose of influencing or interfering with the political rights or opinions of his fellow citizens. A judicious standard of physical and other requisites being adopted, and in all cases strictly conformed to, the appointment of officers should be for such length of time as their good conduct and personal capability shall warrant, subject to no dismissal but for adequate cause. As soon after the organization of the force as may be practicable, all appointments to the higher grades should be made from those who have served a prescribed term in the rank next subordinate, thus holding out to every officer a constant inducement for zeal and diligence in the performance of duty. Appointment by a competent commission, continuance in office until removal for just cause, and promotion for merit, are deemed the three principal essentials to the organization of an efficient police.

A thorough military discipline and drill, an appropriate uniform for the whole force, excepting those employed in detective and special duty, a corps of substitutes from whom to fill temporary vacancies, through sickness or necessary absence, and from whom the permanent force should be recruited, and the provision of a fund for those disabled in the service, would greatly increase the individual and collective efficiency of its officers. The power of removal for proper cause, the general supervision of the police stations, and

other property of the Department, and the control of moneys appropriated for its use, should be devolved upon the proposed Police Board. The appointment and removal of all detective officers, their control and direct accountability, should be reserved to the Mayor. In recommending to Councils the consideration of these important modifications of the present system, I would leave to their discretion whatever measures may be required, under the authority of the Legislature, to carry them into effect.

The police force, when organized soon after the consolidation of Philadelphia, comprised 916 officers, but was reduced on the first of March, 1856, to 710, its present complement.

My lamented predecessor, the late Robert T. Conrad, in reluctantly signing the ordinance by which this reduction was effected, clearly demonstrated its inexpediency, and deprecated the feebleness which must thence pervade the police system of this city. If such views and forebodings were justified by existing circumstances, they must apply with added cogency to the relative condition of the city and its police at the present time. In 1855, the number of miles of streets and alleys under police supervision was computed to be 600; their present extent, as shown by a recent estimate, is 739 miles, an increase of nearly twenty-five per cent.

Within the last four years more than six thousand buildings have been erected in this city, which, if closely situated, would cover an area of 100 squares, and would thus add 50 miles of 'beats' to those previously patrolled; but, from the isolated position of many, have more than doubled such length. Notwithstanding this additional extent of property committed to the care of the police, the patrol force since its reduction in 1856, has been further decreased by the unavoidable detail of 18 men as turnkeys of the several stations, and of 35 others for the management of the Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph. By the subtraction of this number with

the allowance of 14 for the sick and absent, from the general force of 650, but 583 officers are left for active duty, of whom 123 are in service during the day, and 460 compose the patrol at night. Of these latter but one-half are employed at the same hour, and thus 230 men are charged with the supervision and protection of dwellings, warehouses and other valuable property along the extent of 739 miles.

The four wards, comprising the larger part of the rural districts are almost without a police,—although the recent improvements within their limits exceed in value those in many of the other wards. The urgent necessity of protecting those districts in which are the largest quantities of merchandise and other property most subject to depredation, has occasioned a decrease of the number of police in the rural wards, disproportioned to the general reduction of the force. But however impracticable it may be to extend the guardianship of the police over every portion of these outer wards, there are within their bounds localities which from the nature and value of their improvements require and are entitled to more adequate protection than can now be afforded them.

By abolishing the discrimination between the built and rural districts in the assessment of taxes for police purposes, the number of officers might be sufficiently enlarged to admit of due provision wherever their services are needed. As the incidental advantages of the police force are shared by all parts of the city, there does not appear to be any valid reason why common contribution should not be made towards its support. The arrest of offenders in one district is, to some degree, a safeguard for every other—whilst, on the other hand, if a preventive police is maintained over only portions of the city, it must tend to the increase of crime in others which are destitute of the like protection.

With the large area included within the city, it must be impracticable to adopt generally a preventive system of police,

which, by adequately guarding every locality, may render the commission of crime either impossible or of but rare occurrence. At present, the utmost zeal and vigilance cannot enable a single policeman to watch effectually over persons and property throughout the limits of a beat extending for one or more miles in length. The fear of discovery in the actual perpetration of crime, may in some measure deter from its attempt; but the certainty of detection and punishment will operate with greater power. The experience of every one conversant with police details, abundantly proves that crime against property, especially in large communities, is a systemized pursuit. It is seldom that the offences of burglary, pocket-picking, thieving and counterfeiting are committed, except by adepts, constantly associating with each other, and well acquainted with facilities for the disposal of their gains.

Nor is it less certain that such crimes are rarely perpetrated by any one person indiscriminately, but that there is a distribution of object, as well understood and as strictly adhered to as in the legitimate occupations of society. Where accurate information can be had concerning the persons, associations and movements of those who are in the regular practice of crime, it not only renders the detection of each offence more certain, but frequently serves to forefend its perpetration.

Although in default of a suitable preventive police force, a well organized detective system is indispensable, the present force is singularly deficient in its provision for this branch of the service. The entire detective aid under the ordinance regulating the police department, consists of four special officers, a number altogether inadequate to the duties which they are designed to perform. To remedy such defect, as far as practicable, it has been customary to employ for this service at least four of the high constables, with others selected from the general force for their particular fitness. An increase of 12 officers for this service would allow of the proper classifica-

tion of the detectives for such special duties as might be assigned them—an arrangement now unfeasible from the limited number, but which would greatly conduce to their efficiency.

In these representations of the insufficiency of the present police force, and in thus recommending its increase, I am not unmindful of the expense with which it would be attended. But I cannot believe it to be compatible with the welfare of this city, that the most important function of its government should be stinted to an arbitrary limit, regardless of every consideration but that of assumed economy. True economy consists in the careful adjustment of means to the accomplishment of a proposed object—but not in that outlay, whether much or little, which is insufficient for its attainment. The primary duty of every government is to provide suitable protection for all persons and property within its care—and such protection must be ever co-extensive with the growth of the community and its corresponding necessities.

The current expenses of the Police Department for the past year amounted to \$387,541 48, besides appropriations for special objects of \$3,668 00. There has also been expended during that period the sum of \$4,512 73 for debts incurred prior to 1858, together with \$8,916 90, through the Commissioner of City Property, towards the cost of erecting the Station house in the eleventh district. The estimated expenses of the Department for the present year amount to \$390,150. New Station houses are greatly needed for the first and ninth districts, for the construction of which an additional appropriation will be required of \$20,000.

In June last, the Station house of the first district was declared by the Board of Health to be a public nuisance, and at their instance its cells were unoccupied until the cold weather admitted of their renewed use. It would be impracticable, without great expense, to adapt this building, formerly

known as Moyamensing Hall, for the wholesome accommodation of prisoners. The value of this property is too great to justify its permanent use as a police station, and whenever other accommodations for that purpose can be provided, a due regard for the finances of the city will demand its sale. The building rented by the city as a station for the ninth district is ill adapted for the confinement of prisoners, or for the comfort of the police, and is in every respect discreditable to the service. The peculiar requirements of a police station can only be had by the special erection of a building for that purpose, and the attempt to adapt any other edifice for such use must lead to injudicious and continued expense.

The report of the Chief of Police exhibits the number of arrests during 1858, amounting to 22,367, of which 5,986 took place prior to the 1st of June, and 16,381 during the remainder of the year.

Among the more numerous offences were—

Breach of the peace and disorderly conduct,	11,143
Intoxication, - - - - -	4,453
Assault and battery of various kinds,	1,761
Larceny, - - - - -	1,004
Misdemeanors, - - - - -	640
Riot and inciting thereto, - - -	332
Passing counterfeit money, - - -	153
Robbery, - - - - -	93
Picking pockets, - - - - -	79
Gambling, - - - - -	33
Murder, - - - - -	20
Vagrancy, - - - - -	1,352
Other offences, - - - - -	1,304

Other arrests were made by the police of which no record has been kept, the parties being discharged by magistrates upon bail or otherwise, without detention at a station house.

The nativities of those included in the report of arrests were as follows:—

United States,	-	-	-	9,925
Ireland,	-	-	-	9,662
Germany, -	-	-	-	1,608
England,	-	-	-	902
Scotland, -	-	-	-	129
France,	-	-	-	85
Other countries,	-	-	-	56

The duties of the detective branch have been ably performed by its several officers, and have been attended with gratifying results. Much valuable property has, through their agency, been recovered and restored to owners, and society has been relieved from the depredations of many noted offenders by their detection and conviction.

The arrests by detective officers, not included in the foregoing report of the Chief, are as follows:—

Larceny,	-	-	-	85
Burglary,	-	-	-	43
Picking pockets,	-	-	-	37
Conspiracy,	-	-	-	14
Fugitives from justice,	-	-	-	9
Forgery,	-	-	-	7
Other offences,	-	-	-	125
				—
Total,	-	-	-	320

The want of a magistrate at the Central station, before whom charges of more than usual importance might be heard, greatly restricts the efficiency of the detective police. The act of 13th May, 1856, provided “That the Mayor shall not hereafter sit as a committing magistrate, but as the executive head of the city and its police, may issue warrants and cause arrests to be made in accordance with law, returnable before

any Police magistrate." A careful consideration of the several acts relating to the powers and duties of the aldermen of this city has induced the belief that their jurisdiction can be legally exercised only in their offices in the wards for which they have been elected. Although the Mayor may issue warrants, they must be made returnable before a committing magistrate, upon whom he can confer no power to act elsewhere than is provided by law, and I have accordingly forbidden the hearing of cases at the Central office, until properly enabled to appoint some magistrate for that purpose.

It is highly advisable that every opportunity to become acquainted with the persons and characteristics of those in the methodical pursuit of crime, should be furnished to detective officers, but the detention of offenders in the several station houses, and the investigation of the charges preferred against them by different aldermen, deprives these officers of this important aid. It is but reasonable that the authority to issue warrants and to cause arrests, should be accompanied with a supervisory power over the proceedings of the magistrate before whom such warrants have been made returnable, and it is of much consequence to the furtherance of justice that some legislative enactment should be had by which the Mayor may be authorized to provide for the hearing of cases at the Central station. In connection with this subject, I feel constrained to allude to the culpable neglect by many of the aldermen of this city of the payment into the City Treasury of fees and penalties received by them in criminal or penal cases. By the 24th section of the Act of Consolidation it was enacted, that it should "not be lawful for any alderman in said city to take fees in criminal cases." The 25th section of the supplementary act of 21st of April, 1855, repealed the foregoing enactment and made it "lawful for any alderman or justice of the peace in said city to receive fees in criminal or penal cases, but said costs and penalties shall be paid over

to the City Treasury monthly;" and by the 27th section of the same act, it was further provided that "any such alderman neglecting or refusing to make return and pay over as aforesaid, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor in office." Notwithstanding the plain purport of the law, it appears by the return of the City Controller, that of the 79 aldermen commissioned in this city, but 39 have made any return during the past year of the fees and penalties thus received by them for the use of the public treasury. The sums returned by such 39 aldermen, range in amount from 40 cents to \$427 62, making an aggregate of \$3,658 86. I entertain no doubt that the receipts by the aldermen of this city, of fees and costs in criminal cases, and of penalties in penal cases, which are the lawful dues of the city, amount to more than \$25,000 annually. In making such representation, it is but justice to add that some of the aldermen refuse to entertain criminal business, and that others make full and true returns of all moneys thus received by them.

Every effort has been made by this department to correct and prevent this retention of public moneys, but without success. If those who are charged with administering the law are themselves in the constant violation of its requirements, it cannot be expected that justice in its purity and integrity will be meted out to the community. It is well worthy of consideration whether the removal of criminal jurisdiction from the aldermen and the appointment of persons learned in the law, to exercise the same by the courts, would not be productive of incalculable good to the community. The law admits of no compensation to aldermen for their services in criminal cases, except to those elected by Councils as Committing magistrates. Erroneous decisions of questions touching only dollars and cents, can be revised by the courts with but little inconvenience to the parties interested; but charges involving the loss of personal liberty and reputation,

are too momentous for adjudication by those who have not been fitted therefor by a legal training.

The increase of vagrancy and street begging, mostly by children, demanded special efforts for its suppression. In October last two officers were assigned to this duty exclusively, and notwithstanding the great extent of their charge, the result has been most evident and satisfactory. From the 5th of October to the end of the year, their report shows the number of arrests made by them (and not included in the general report of the Chief of Police) to have been 51 boys and 29 girls, of whom 28 boys and 26 girls were sent to the House of Refuge, 12 boys and 18 girls to other charitable institutions, and the remainder were reprimanded and discharged by magistrates. In addition to these arrests, 90 vagrant children were accompanied by the officers to their respective homes, and caution given to their parents to keep them from the streets. These two special officers also arrested, during the same period, 50 women and 20 men for begging and vagrancy.

The Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph is an indispensable branch of the service, and of constantly increasing usefulness. It has been in active operation for nearly three years, under the charge of its constructor and Superintendent, Mr. W. J. Philips. During 1858 it transmitted 36,359 messages through its different circuits, being an increase of 2,152 over the number for the preceding year. Through its agency 3,087 lost children, 379 missing adults, and 1,003 stray or stolen cattle, have been traced and recovered. The facilities of the Police Telegraph for the transmission of messages has enabled me to dispense with one of the messengers allowed by ordinance; and I recommend that hereafter but one such officer be attached to the Mayor's office. The rooms provided at the Central Station for the operators of the telegraph and for purposes connected therewith are without the conveni-

ences required for its management, and both in location and size, are unworthy its important services. Signal boxes are still needed in various parts of the city, and should be introduced into the houses of many of the fire companies, particularly such as have the steam fire engines in use.

The Fire Detective branch of the Police, originally established by my immediate predecessor, has been continued under the supervision of Fire Marshal Blackburn, and is one of the most useful branches of the city government. From the able and elaborate report of its services during the past year, and of statistical information collected in their pursuit, it appears that the total loss of property by fire within the city for that period, has been \$285,729, of which \$172,315 was covered by insurance, being a decrease of nearly 50 per cent., as compared with the loss of the previous year, for like cause. Whilst such unprecedented immunity from serious loss may be partly attributable to several causes, it is in no small degree consequent upon the vigilance and judicious efforts of the officer charged with the investigation of the circumstances attendant upon the breaking out of all fires within the limits of the city. A very marked decrease of the crime of arson in this community has already resulted from the services of this department. I would suggest that Councils should duly recognize the fire detective service, and should provide for the officer charged therewith a more adequate remuneration than is now given him by the salary of High Constable.

In the month of October last, an appropriate uniform was adopted for the Reserve Corps, numbering 30 men, who are attached to the Central Station. The cost of such uniform was willingly defrayed by the officers, in default of any public fund for that purpose. The efficiency of this division of the police has been promoted by their distinctive dress and military appearance, enabling its members to be easily

recognized when their services are needed, and imparting to them that semblance of authority which is never without its due influence in the enforcement of the law. It is deemed very essential that power should be given for the appointment of substitutes, in cases of the temporary absence of officers, from sickness or other causes. The number prescribed by ordinance has never been exceeded during this administration, but the sudden and unexpected withdrawal of officers from duty, it may be to the extent of twenty or more at one time, with no authority to supply their places, is not only embarrassing in the disposition of the force, but necessarily leaves much valuable property without protection. As pay is withheld in all cases of absence for other causes than sickness or injury occasioned by exposure or accident in the performance of duty, the additional expense of substitutes would be very trifling in comparison with the advantages which must result from their employment.

The finances of the city during the past year have been embarrassed, owing to the insufficiency of taxes provided for the payment of the appropriations to the different departments, and for the discharge of the outstanding liabilities of the preceding year. Besides the revenue of the city derived from other sources, the net amount of proceeds from taxation needed to provide for the appropriations of 1858 and for the deficiency of 1857, was about \$2,959,000, whilst the net amount to be received from that source, under the rate as fixed by Councils, could not exceed \$2,550,000. The deficiency thus caused, together with the inadequacy of the appropriations for the necessary current expenses of the government has been provided for by the creation of a loan of \$450,000, thus unavoidably adding to the funded debt of the city. The municipal revenue of each year should always suffice for its current and contingent expenditures. Whatever rate of taxation, in addition to other income, may be needed to

yield the full amount of the annual appropriations to the several departments, with a reasonable surplus for probable contingencies, should be unhesitatingly enacted and levied. Any other policy must be detrimental to the credit of the city, and is unquestionably dishonest to its citizens.

One of the most obvious defects of the present municipal system, is that of assigning to the Councils, for one term of service, the duty of determining the taxes which are mainly to be expended during the term of those that succeed them.

The desire of conciliating popular favor by limiting taxation to a low rate, offers a strong inducement to fix the annual appropriations below the amount necessary for the several departments. The Councils upon whom in turn the expenditures of these appropriations is devolved, disown all responsibility for the inadequacy of revenue, and feel justified in supplying the deficiency by new loans; or else they must suffer the embarrassment of an empty treasury, and be forced to increase the taxes of the ensuing year by the sum which should have been raised by their predecessors. The record of each year since consolidation, warrants the assertion, that until some change takes place, by which the responsibility both of raising and of expending the annual revenue can be devolved upon the same Councils, there will be reason to anticipate the constant increase of the funded debt of Philadelphia, by loans to be used for the payment of its current expenses.

The receipts of the City Treasury during the past year amounted to \$4,744,963 44, which, with the balance on hand January 1st, 1858, made a total of \$5,233,001 54. Of this sum \$5,035,618 33 have been expended, leaving on the 1st of January, 1859, a balance of \$197,383 20. A temporary loan of \$200,000 negotiated in November last, will mature in March of the present year—but will be amply provided for

by outstanding taxes. Many of the warrants issued in 1855 and 1856 are withheld from presentation at the Treasury until provision is made for the payment of the interest which has accrued upon them. The appropriation of \$10,000 made in March last for such interest has already been exhausted upon the warrants redeemed during 1858, and it is recommended that a similar appropriation be made, which it is believed will suffice to discharge all the remaining liabilities of this description.

The statement of the City Controller exhibits the entire funded debt of the city, to mature after the 1st of January, 1859, to be \$20,338,705 31—of which amount \$3,173,423 52 are of five per cent. and \$17,165,281 79 of six per cent. loans. In addition to such amount the sum of \$86,368 42 has already matured, but has not been presented for payment.

This amount of \$20,338,705 31 will be increased by the loan of \$200,000 authorized for the construction of culverts, but not yet issued. Of this amount of indebtedness there will fall due in 1860 \$945,234 64, and in 1861 \$448,108 55, for the payment of which some other provision must be made than by resort to the investments of the Sinking Funds and their accumulations.

By the report of the Commissioner of the Sinking Funds provided for the redemption of the city debt, it will appear that nine several accounts have been opened for as many distinct loans, and that to each respectively is credited the amount appropriated for its redemption under the terms of the ordinance by which it has been created.

The amount standing to the credit of each Sinking Fund on the 1st of January, 1859, was as follows :

	<i>Loans.</i>	<i>Cash.</i>
Sinking fund of loan of \$10,000,000	\$166,993 74	\$7,466 79
“ “ “ 1,000,000	41,800 00	54 63
“ “ “ 800,000	20,500 00	10 05
“ “ “ 96,900	4,200 00	76 50
“ “ “ 675,000	27,100 00	55,75
“ “ “ 1,050,000	35,300 00	47,25
“ “ “ 100,000	2,400 00	34 25
Gas Works loan,	38,400 00	4,526 00
	\$386,693 74	\$12,271 22

No appropriation has yet been received to the sinking fund of the recent loan of \$450,000. The present amount of investments and cash belonging to the Sinking Funds which might be used for the redemption of the debt maturing in 1860 and 1861, and any accumulation thereof prior to such period, will prove totally inadequate for such purpose, and it should engage the early attention of Councils to devise some measures by which this indebtedness shall be duly and promptly met. The operations of the Sinking Funds would be greatly facilitated, and the liability of improper issues much diminished, by requiring all certificates of city loans to be countersigned and registered by some officer connected with that department.

The imperfect condition of the tax duplicates for 1858, furnished by the City Commissioners, makes it impracticable to ascertain with accuracy the amount of taxes assessed during the present year for municipal purposes.

The most careful estimate that can be given by the Receiver of Taxes makes their gross amount \$2,806,896 88, from which \$40,000 must be deducted for exempted estates, and \$117,298 43 for the discount allowed to tax payers, which makes the revenue from taxation for 1858, \$2,549,598 45.

The ordinance fixing the rate of taxes for 1858 at one dollar and eighty-five cents on the hundred dollars of assessed value, was approved February 12th, and the books of the Receiver were opened March 8th for payment thereof.

The monthly receipts from that date to the end of the year were as follows :

March,	-	-	-	\$524,988	42
April,	-	-	-	239,462	28
May,	-	-	-	143,803	18
June,	-	-	-	125,026	82
July,	-	-	-	142,951	36
August,	-	-	-	60,773	16
September,	-	-	-	68,730	23
October,	-	-	-	110,302	74
November,	-	-	-	135,673	85
December,	-	-	-	468,000	21
				\$2,019,712	25

leaving \$529,886 20 outstanding on the 1st of January, 1859, or nearly 20 per cent of the entire tax levy, of which there has since been received, to the 22d instant, \$224,059 96 to avoid the additional charge of 5 per cent. imposed by legal process for collection. The amount of discounts allowed to tax payers during the past year, as previously stated, was \$117,298 43, or about 4½ per cent. of the taxes. The 11th section of the act of consolidation provides that all tax payers who shall pay their taxes in the year for which they are assessed shall have an allowance thereon at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum from the date of payment until the end of the year. Notwithstanding the seeming liberality of the inducement thus offered for the prompt payment of taxes, it has hitherto proved unavailing to keep the treasury duly replenished, and a constant resort to temporary loans has been unavoidable, the interest upon which has necessarily increased the public expenditure. The provisions of the act are in some degree illusory, and the benefit to be derived by the tax payers who avail themselves of its terms are apparent rather than real. The annual rate of taxation must be fixed with

reference to the probable deduction from the gross income for allowances to tax payers, thus making it 4 to 5 per cent. higher than would otherwise be required. The citizen whose allowance upon the payment of his tax does not amount to this additional percentage, although nominally obtaining the proffered discount, is actually contributing to the public revenue a larger sum than would be demanded under a different system of collection, whilst he who avails himself of the earliest practicable moment, and thus obtains the largest discount, must, in computing the sum which he has saved, deduct the percentage by which his quota of taxation has been increased. It is suggested that a system of collection which should make allowance to tax payers at the rate of one-half per cent. a month from the date of payment until the 1st of July, and which would impose an additional charge of one per cent. a month from the 1st of July until payment be made, would decrease the amount now annually estimated for allowances, and thus diminish the annual rate of taxation, and would save the interest which is payable upon temporary loans.

The efficiency of the Law Department is seriously impaired, as will appear by the communication of the City Solicitor, from the want of well defined legislative enactments relative to the registration, lien and process of collection of over-due taxes and other municipal claims. The duties of this department are numerous and varied, comprising not only the management of its immediate responsibilities, but also advising upon the legal questions continually submitted by other branches of the city government. The imposition of a penalty for non-payment before a designated period, has been found to produce a prompt yield of the annual water rents, and there is no good reason why it should not be adopted in the collection of municipal taxes. I would recommend that Councils apply to the State Legislature for the repeal of the pro-

visions of the act of consolidation on this subject, and for the enactment of some other system more equitable to the whole community, and better calculated to afford a prompt supply of the City Treasury.

The total valuation of real estate and of personal property assessed for taxation for municipal purposes for 1859 is \$155,697,669, of which the personal property amounts to \$2,697,433. The number of taxables in the entire city is stated at 103,850. The assessment of real estate by the name of the owner, instead of by local and numerical designation, is productive of much confusion in the collection of taxes, and not unfrequently of loss, and a change in such method is deemed of great importance.

During the last year strenuous efforts have been made to furnish a supply of water more commensurate to the necessities of the community than before afforded, and the average daily supply has reached 18,738,153 gallons, being an increase of 1,428,835 of such previous average. New water pipes have been laid to the length of 67,293 feet, exceeding the extent in any former year.

The receipts of the Water Department in 1858 amounted to \$457,518 48, and its expenditures to \$186,570 58, leaving a profit of \$270,947 90, applicable to the general expenses of the city. The profits of this department have always exceeded those of any other branch of the government, and have since consolidation been steadily increasing. They amounted in 1855 to \$131,141 35; 1856, \$212,981 64; 1857, \$224,820 29; 1858, \$270,947 90. It has become indispensable to the comfort of the community, that the various works for the supply of water should be much enlarged, and that many of the present street mains should be replaced by others of greater capacity. When it is considered that upon a proper supply of water depend both the protection of property from conflagration and the immunity of citizens from

disease, no requisite expenditure for the accomplishment of such end should be grudged, but when the increased profits to be derived from such measures are taken into calculation, all objection must give way.

The entire amount of unredeemed loan issued for the construction of water works is now but \$672,700; and whatever addition may be made thereto can readily be repaid, by devoting a part, or all of the increased annual profits resulting therefrom, to its extinguishment. The re-assessment of water rents, which has engaged the attention of the department for some months, will yield the city an increased revenue of from sixty to seventy-five thousand dollars annually. Until some means shall have been put into operation, by which the present insufficient supply of water can be made equal to the demand, stringent measures should be taken by Councils to prevent its waste. An ordinance districting the built parts of the city, and restraining, under severe penalty, the washing of pavements in such districts to certain hours and days, respectively, would serve to check such waste, and which is more important, would tend to the preservation of the general health of the community. There are few subjects of municipal regulation that deserve earlier and more vigorous action, than the abatement of the present unrestricted practice of cleansing pavements and house fronts, alike wasteful, inconvenient, and unhealthy.

The rental of property belonging to the city and not used for public purposes, together with other revenue collected by the Commissioner of City Property, has amounted during the past year to \$27,618 63. The various expenditures for repairs and improvements of the public buildings and squares have been \$82,434 65. The small appropriations for beautifying and adding to the number of trees, &c., in the several squares, has precluded any very perceptible improvements within their limits. Fairmount Park, Hunting Park, and

Norris Square especially, require such appropriations as shall render them the resort and enjoyment of our citizens.

The insufficient and discreditable accommodations provided for the county and State courts, and for the deposit of public records, should be a subject of humiliation to every citizen of Philadelphia. Prior to the consolidation of the city, the local jealousies of the several municipalities may have prevented the erection of suitable buildings for those purposes; but Philadelphia is, or should be, a unit in every undertaking for its common welfare, and it still remains a matter of reproach that its edifices for great public objects are far inferior to many erected in its midst for the business of different corporations, or even to those of the several county towns throughout the State.

The probable receipts from the rental of markets and wharves is estimated for the present year at about \$105,000. The enacted removal of the stalls and houses from Market street will occasion a permanent loss of revenue of more than \$20,000 per annum, for which, however, the city will be amply remunerated by the removal of such obstructions from its chief business thoroughfare, and by the increased facilities thus offered for the extension of trade. The policy of providing at the public expense accommodations, however profitable they may be to the common revenue, for carrying on any individual business, must be very questionable. Ordinances regulating the measure, quality, and seasonableness of all descriptions of meats, fish, vegetables and fruit, should be of general obligation, whether the sale of such articles be made in private markets or upon the public highways. The various enactments now in force relative to the sale of provisions, are in many instances in conflict with each other, and are by far too voluminous, occupying nearly seventy pages of the digested municipal laws.

The expenditures of the Department of Surveys during

1858 have been \$24,517 34. Under the direction of this department several small bridges have been erected for public highways, and very essential repairs have been made to the bridge over Gunners Run and to that over the Schuylkill at Girard avenue. Four main lines of culvert have been placed under construction in accordance with the ordinance authorizing the same, which will not only benefit the vast extent of property in their immediate vicinity, but must tend to promote the general health of the community. The construction of the culvert in the north-western part of the city, which is designed to drain the large area on the eastern side of the Schuylkill above its dam at Fairmount, is of special importance, as it will in a great measure prevent the flow of impurities from slaughter houses, manufactories and public buildings, into the body of water from which is taken that used for daily consumption throughout the city. Due regard for the purity of the water furnished to citizens demands the enactment of an ordinance prohibiting the erection of buildings in the vicinity of the Schuylkill above Fairmount to be occupied for noxious purposes, unless ample provision be made for the drainage of all impurities into culverts that shall empty them below the reservoirs. The system of municipal drainage is yet but imperfectly understood, and its great importance not sufficiently comprehended; but the ordinances of the last year relative to branch culverts, and providing for the new main culverts, must lead to its thorough consideration and perfection.

A plan recently prepared by the Board of Surveyors, for the construction of a bridge over the Schuylkill at Chestnut street, will be submitted at an early day for the action of Councils. The cost of such bridge, it is believed, will very far exceed the amount of \$125,000, originally appropriated for that purpose.

During the year 1858 the system of City Passenger Rail-

ways has been introduced for the first time into our city—cars for such mode of conveyance having passed over the Frankford and Southwark Railway on the 20th of January. There are now six different lines of railway in active operation through various parts of the city, and others in progress of construction. Perhaps no public improvement ever occasioned more contrariety of opinion than the occupation by the passenger railway system, of the streets of this city, and perhaps none has ever promised more general benefit to the community. Whilst it is believed that the utility and convenience of this system have commended it to the favor of the great mass of the community, there are many obvious reasons which demand that it shall be carefully regulated and firmly controlled by the City Councils. The powers delegated by the State Legislature for such purpose, and embodied in the acts of incorporation of the several railway companies are ample, if judiciously exercised, to prevent those railways which originated under the plea of public accommodation from being made conducive merely to the self-interested purposes of capitalists. There should be no unnecessary delay in the adoption of an ordinance which shall clearly define the obligation of the several companies to keep in constant repair the entire width of streets respectively occupied by them, regulate the size and capacity of the cars, provide for the time for which they may be allowed to stand at designated points, require the use of bells or other methods of notifying their approach, and determine the right of general travel along the railways in the direction of the passage of their cars.

It is suggested that no car should be allowed to carry passengers upon its top, and that some restriction be placed upon the common practice of over filling cars to the serious inconvenience of passengers and to the inhuman treatment of the horses employed for their conveyance. The almost simultaneous construction of the several lines of city railway has

precluded the adoption of improvements which the defects apparent in those first laid out might have suggested in the arrangement of others. It is much to be regretted that a wider gauge has not been uniformly adopted which might admit of a tramway within the line of the rail for the use of vehicles generally, and which would thus obviate one of the most serious objections urged against the utility of the system. If the legislature shall require the assent of Councils to be obtained by projected railway companies before occupying other of the public streets, such assent should only be given after careful inquiry and deliberation.

The passenger railways now in operation are either directly or readily accessible to the greater portion of the community, and it is exclusively for its welfare that Councils are to legislate, and not in furtherance of the interested schemes of those who would attain their selfish purposes regardless of the wishes or comfort of their fellow citizens.

No final action has been had by Councils concerning the occupancy by a passenger railway of the free bridge over the Schuylkill at Market street, which has continued for nearly eight months unauthorized by law, and in direct violation of the trust under which that bridge was granted to the city. No corporation, whatever its purport or by whomsoever it may be managed, should receive greater consideration in its disregard of law than the humblest member of the community. The system of passenger railways, if properly controlled, is destined to confer great benefits upon Philadelphia, to expand its improvements in every direction, and to promote the general convenience of the people, but if from the magnitude of its interests and influence it shall hereafter acquire undue ascendancy over those legislations for the common good, it will prove in no ordinary degree obnoxious to the community.

The Highway Department has expended during the past year \$441,542 40, and has received \$16,667 15 from various

sources. Besides the general supervision, construction and repairs of streets and roads, it is charged with the cleanliness of the public highways, and yet, owing to the system of cleansing by contract, it has no effectual control over a subject so intimately concerning the comfort and health of the community. The Board of Highway Commissioners is annually required to recommend to the Mayor three suitable persons in each supervisor's district, one of whom the Mayor is to appoint as supervisor. This method of appointment is highly objectionable, as devolving upon the Mayor a serious responsibility which should properly pertain to the Board of Commissioners. It not unfrequently happens that all of the nominees for one district may, in the estimation of the Mayor, be disqualified for the office of supervisor, and yet his appointment of one of them is made obligatory by the Act of Assembly. Unless the power of rejecting nominees who may be considered unsuitable is vested in the Mayor, the Commissioners should be charged with the undivided responsibility of every appointment. The Supplement to the Consolidation Act, of May 13, 1856, in its 27th section, requires that all goods, merchandise, labor and service for the city shall be by contract, as prescribed by ordinance; and accordingly the duty of cleansing the city by districts has been awarded to those who are willing to undertake it for the lowest sum. The cleansing of streets by contract is necessarily at variance with the public good, as the profit of the contractor will be greatest when the least service has been performed. If it is indispensable that this service should be under contract, the obligation entered into should be for the supply of the requisite number of men and of carts, and the labor to be rendered by them should be designated by the Department of Police, to whom the cleansing of the city most appropriately belongs. If the specifications inserted in the contracts were strictly adhered to, and the stipulated services properly rendered, there would no cause for the con-

stant and well founded complaints which are addressed to the Mayor, without any power on his part to remedy the evil.

The present regulations for cabs and hackney coaches do not suffice to protect either citizens or strangers from frequent extortion. The provision of the ordinance requiring the authorized rates of fare to be placed in a conspicuous part of the vehicle is seldom complied with, and the number which should be distinctly marked upon the panel of the door is frequently concealed by surrounding ornament so as hardly to be discernible. The driver of every carriage that stands upon the public streets for hire, should be compelled to provide himself with small cards setting forth his name and residence, the number of his vehicle, and the established rates of fare, and should be required, under penalty of the forfeiture of his license, to hand one of such cards to each person by whom he is employed. If special licenses to await the arrival of steamboats and railway cars were issued in limited number to drivers of known honesty and good demeanor to the exclusion of all others, the comfort of travelers would be greatly promoted, as well as the fair repute of the city.

The ordinance requiring the cleansing of pavements from snow is only obligatory within the limits of the former city east of Broad street, and for the unimproved property west of that street, and in the districts of Spring Garden and Southwark. Its provisions should be extended over every paved street within the consolidated city, and the penalty for non-compliance therewith should be proportioned to the extent of pavement neglected.

The city railroad has been kept in good condition by the expenditure of \$7,303 43, and has returned for tolls and other receipts \$12,868 12. Great difficulty is experienced in removing ice and snow from its rails, which might be readily accomplished by the use of the recently invented salt car, at but small additional expense.

The report of the Building Inspectors shows the issue of 6,153 permits for the erection of new buildings since June 5, 1855, to the end of 1858. The law regulating the erection of frame buildings, is only partial in its extent, applying to the former city, and in a modified degree to the district of Southwark. The act of May, 1855, providing for the regulation and inspection of buildings in the city of Philadelphia, does not explicitly prohibit the erection of frame buildings within its bounds, although its manifest spirit and purport would justify the building inspectors in refusing permits for such purpose. Councils are fully empowered to extend over all parts of the consolidated city that may be deemed advisable, the prohibitory ordinance which is now in force only in the old city proper, and such enactment, or one of like import, is of immediate and urgent necessity to the safety of property in various districts.

The appropriation for the repair and management of the city ice boat, during the year 1858, was \$11,475 00, of which amount the trustees have expended \$9,052 97. The importance of this enterprise to the city, both directly and incidentally, is beyond any estimate. If no other advantage ensued from the employment of the ice boat, than the opening of the river channel for the arrival and departure of vessels, there would be abundant reason to continue the necessary appropriation for its service; but when it is considered how many of the community depend for their daily maintenance upon occupations connected with the lading and discharge of these vessels, the benefits accruing from its use can hardly be overrated.

The past year has been the commencement of a new era in the Fire Department of Philadelphia by the introduction of the Steam Fire Engine into common use. Four of these engines are in active service, and several others are in progress of construction. The superiority of the steam fire engine to all

other apparatus for the extinguishment of fires can no longer be disputed; and whenever their number shall suffice for the adequate protection of property throughout the city, a complete reorganization of the fire department should be made with special reference to their increased efficiency. With but few exceptions the numerous engine and hose companies have, to a commendable degree, maintained peace and good order, and have striven to remove the stigma which had been brought upon the volunteer system by previous strife and turbulence.

The report of the Chief Engineer of the Gas Department exhibits the prosperous condition of the various works under his control, and the increasing demand for participation in their benefits. The superiority of gas over all other means of artificial light is so well established, that considerations of economy and of safety commend its use, wherever it can be furnished. At the present time, 28,897 customers are provided with more than 375,000 lights, supplied through 255 miles of street mains. The revenue from the Gas Works is fully adequate to their current expenses, besides the due provision for the redemption of loans created for their construction, but it does not enable the trustees to increase the capabilities for production, or to furnish the service pipes and meters required for additional consumption. The advantages of these works should be liberally extended to every part of the city, in which the demand for gas will justify the expense of its introduction.

The accompanying statement of the income and expenditures of the Girard Estates, exhibits the usual annual balance to the credit of that trust. The proper disposition to be made of such balance, is a question of some interest to the community. Whether it should be appropriated towards defraying the cost of the police, and otherwise diminishing the burden of taxation, or should be devoted to the improvement of the real estate belonging to the trust, cannot be

determined by past experience, as it has heretofore, in conformity with the provisions of Mr. Girard's will, been at different times made use of for each of these purposes. The impracticability of appropriating it for the exclusive benefit of that portion of the city, which was designated by Mr. Girard as the special object of his liberality, greatly increases the difficulty with which this question is involved.

The present Councils, as the successors of the original trustees, should enact such disposition of the annual balance, as upon careful inquiry may be required by the proper construction of the will, and should not devolve upon a committee the unrestricted control of that sum.

The Girard College for Orphans has completed the eleventh year of its successful organization and management; and the last annual report of its Directors contains a gratifying account of the advantages which it affords, and of the large number of orphans who are the recipients of its munificent bounty.

The expenditures of the Guardians of the Poor for the past year have been \$243,139 99, exclusive of \$16,514 34 paid by them for liabilities previously incurred. The Blockley Alms House has contained an average monthly population of 2,650 persons, among whom were at least 350 able-bodied men, who have been maintained at the public expense, with little or no opportunity to contribute their services towards the support of the institution. The Hospital connected with this establishment has received and treated 6,063 patients, of whom 4,532 have been discharged, cured or relieved, 630 have died, and 801 were under its care at the beginning of the year. The lunatic department has, during the same period, had 882 inmates, of whom 255 were discharged, 111 died, and 416 remain.

From statistics furnished by the Chief Resident Physician, it appears that the ratio of mortality among the inmates of

the Alms-house has annually decreased during the last five years, having been reduced from 21.89 per cent. in 1854, to 14.50 per cent. during 1858. There has been, at the same time, a large increase of the average monthly number of inmates, such average in the former year being 2,130, and in the latter reaching 2,650. The inquiry is naturally suggested whether this progressive increase of pauperism is to be suffered without limit, or whether the adoption of some other system is not imperatively demanded, by which the community may, in some degree, be relieved from its heavy annual expense for the maintenance of the unfortunate, the dissolute, and the vagrant.

Independently of the actual disbursement from the public treasury, the great value of the premises occupied for an Alms-house must be considered in computing the cost of the present system for the relief and support of the poor.

The Alms-house limits comprise 187 acres, which were purchased for \$57,766 91, but which by their sale would unquestionably produce a ten-fold return. The expense of the original construction of the main buildings amounted to \$859,743 84, which, with subsequent alterations and repairs, would make the capital actually invested for this establishment but little short of one million of dollars. Various plans have been suggested by which this expense might be diminished, the most feasible, in a mere financial view, being the sale of so much of this property as is not absolutely essential to the use of the institution. A large amount of unproductive capital would thus yield a revenue towards the general expenses of the city ; but in no other respect would such plan tend to the desired result. The only effectual mode through which any permanent relief can be expected must be by the establishment of the House of Correction and Employment authorized by the act of 28th April, 1854. The inadequacy of the sum to which the Managers of that Institution are limited for the cost of its con-

struction, has for five years deprived the community of its benefits. Its early establishment I regard as of more vital importance to the city of Philadelphia than any other measure of municipal economy that could be suggested, and whatever expense may be required for its proper construction and management should be unhesitatingly authorized.

The commitments to the County Prison during 1858 numbered 14,931, or 627 less than those of the year preceding. The maintenance of prisoners, with other incidental expenses, amounted to \$56,820 42, being a decrease of \$3,255 11 when compared with the last annual expenditure. The judicious and economical management of the County Prison since its supervision by the Board of Inspectors appointed by the courts, has been the theme of constant and well merited commendation. A similar result, it is confidently believed, would be accomplished in the department of the poor, by placing it under the control of officers selected in the same manner.

The report of the Board of Health will show the extent of its operations during the past year. Its affairs have been conducted with energy, and with due regard to their economical administration. The condition of the public docks and of the sewers emptying into them, requires the early attention of Councils, and should have due provision for their periodical cleansing as a sanitary measure of great importance. The building on Coates street, formerly known as the City Hospital, having been sold in conformity with an ordinance providing for its removal, it has been necessary to obtain other accommodations for those patients whose disease or circumstances entitle them to such public provision.

A building has been rented on Islington lane and fitted up for the reception of such patients ; but this expedient is but temporary, and the wants of the community demand the erection of an edifice specially adapted for hospital use.

The tables of mortality in Philadelphia during 1858, exhibit

a decrease of 201 in the number of deaths, compared with those of the preceding year, the total number having been 10,964, of whom there were 5,716 males and 4,978 females.

For more detailed information regarding the several subjects of municipal concern, I refer to the accompanying documents. The message, which it is the duty of the Mayor to address annually to Councils, must to a great extent, be prepared from the statements supplied by the various departments; but, as it is not made obligatory to furnish him with an account of their respective transactions, the requisite information is in some cases but scantily as well as tardily afforded. I therefore renew the recommendation made by my immediate predecessor, that the head of each branch of public service should be required by ordinance to present to the Mayor, within a definite period after the beginning of every year, a full and circumstantial account of the affairs of his department since its preceding annual report.

Several of the foregoing recommendations, which in view of their manifest importance I have felt constrained to submit for your consideration, will, if adopted, necessarily be attended with an increase of the annual expenditures, and in some instances, even of the municipal indebtedness. The establishment of a House of Correction, the building of suitable accommodations for the courts, the enlargement of the capacity of the water works and of the gas works, would each require for its accomplishment a sum that could not expediently or justly be raised by direct taxation. The two last mentioned projects, would from their peculiar nature be immediately remunerative, and instead of adding to the burthen of taxes, would contribute to its relief. The citizen who is ignorant of the horde of vagrants and drunkards daily thrust upon the community from an over-crowded prison—whose pursuits do not call him into the fetid atmosphere of a pent-up court room, whose property is suffi-

ciently guarded, and who is in the enjoyment of the conveniences of water and of gas, may perhaps demur to any increase of the public debt. But it is the true design of every government, and especially of one for municipal purposes, to afford equal protection and common advantages, so far as practicable, to all within its care; and to this end, whatever means it may demand should willingly be contributed to its treasury. The citizen who feels identified with the progress and reputation of his city, will never, through selfish considerations, seek to retard its advance, or suffer merited reproach to attach upon its name.

With you, gentlemen, rests the responsibility of fostering and promoting the welfare of Philadelphia, and on the wisdom of your measures may depend its advancement and prosperity. But above all reliance upon the counsels of man, we should unfeignedly look to that Almighty Being whose watchful Providence has been vouchsafed in the past, for His continued protection through the future.

ALEXANDER HENRY.

*Office of the Mayor of the City of }
Philadelphia, January 27, 1859. }*

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY TREASURY.

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE, GIRARD BANK,
Philadelphia, January 13, 1859.

Hon. ALEX. HENRY,
Mayor of Philadelphia,

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your inquiries of 18th ultimo, I beg leave to present the following general statement of the receipts and disbursements of this department during the past year :

On the 1st of January, 1858, the balance in		
the Treasury amounted to	-	\$488,038 10
The total receipts during the year were	-	4,744,963 44
		\$5,233,001 54
Total payments during the year,	-	5,035,618 33
Leaving a balance on the 1st Jan., 1859, of		\$197,383 21
To the credit of the Girard Trust there was on		
hand January 1st, 1858,	-	\$75,763 12
Total receipts during the year,	-	190,662 31
		\$266,425 43
Disbursements during the year,	-	193,659 66
Leaving a balance January 1st, 1859, of	-	\$72,765 77

The several other trust accounts showed a			
balance January 1st, 1858, of	-	-	\$5,094 48
Receipts during the year,	-	-	19,783 45
			\$24,877 93
Payments during the year,	-	-	15,925 15
Balance on hand January 1st, 1859,	-	-	\$8,952 78

The total receipts into the City Treasury for the past year exceed those of 1857 by \$672,696 33, which increase was made up in part by the loan of \$450,000 authorized by ordinance of October 1st, 1858, and a temporary loan of \$200,000 negotiated on the 8th November under authority of an ordinance of November 6th, 1858. This amount was borrowed at that time at four months' date, for the purpose of relieving the necessities of the holders of the city warrants, and of course still remains unpaid. The receipts from taxation at the time of its maturity will no doubt provide for the payment of this loan.

The total payments for the year 1858 exceed those of 1857 \$719,904 85.

The warrants of 1857, outstanding on the 1st January, 1858, as shown by the annual statement of the City Controller January 14th, 1858, amounted to \$540,992 98. The outstanding warrants of 1858 on the 1st instant did not, I suppose, exceed the sum of \$130,000, made up mainly of school warrants, which have since been presented and paid.

In my report to his honor the Mayor in the beginning of last year, I called attention to the fact that a large amount of the warrants of 1855 and 1856 was then outstanding, because no provision had been made for the payment of the interest which had accumulated on them. On the 15th March last, Councils appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for this purpose, the whole of which has since been exhausted.

A similar appropriation the present year I am confident will cancel all these outstanding evidences of the city's indebtedness, which I do not doubt Councils will make as soon as they believe the revenue of the city will justify it.

Very respectfully,

WM. V. M'GRATH,

City Treasurer.

DEPARTMENT OF RECEIVER OF TAXES.

OFFICE OF THE RECEIVER OF TAXES.

To the Hon. ALEX. HENRY,

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia,

DEAR SIR:—Subjoined you have a statement of the amount of taxes assessed for city purposes for the year 1858; also the amount collected of same to the 15th instant, inclusive, and of the amount received since the 1st January, 1858, to this date, of the outstanding registered taxes prior to 1858.

In consequence of the imperfect state of the duplicates furnished to this department by the City Commissioners for the year 1858, (five wards having no summary of the amount charged therein,) I am obliged to adopt the amounts charged in these wards in the duplicates of 1857 as a basis for the year 1858, making an allowance for the difference of the rate levied betwixt the two years, which will approximate very near the correct sum.

Amount of taxes assessed for city purposes		
for 1858,	-	\$2,706,896 88
Deduct allowances for exempt property and		
estates belonging to the city, extended in		
the duplicates,	-	40,000 00
		\$2,666,896 88

Brought forward,	-	-	\$2,666,896 88
Amount collected from March			
9th, 1858, to January 15th,			
1859, inclusive,	-	\$2,219,814 50	
Amount of discount allowed			
on same,	-	\$117,298 43	
			2,337,112 93
Balance outstanding,	-	-	\$329,783 95

The amount received for advertisement of delinquents in 1858, from the 1st January to this date, is - - - 1,580 76

The amount received of registered taxes since 1st January, 1858, for the years 1853, '54, '55, '56 and '57, has been - - 551,864 68

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

A. I. FLOMERFELT,

Receiver of Taxes.

Per ROBERT McCrory.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PROPERTY.

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PROPERTY,
Office, Second Story Girard Bank, North side,
Philadelphia, January 8th, 1859.

HON. ALEXANDER HENRY,

SIR: Your circular of the 18th ultimo was duly received, and in compliance with your request, as also with the law, I herewith submit the following report, viz:

The aggregate annual appropriations to this department for the current fiscal year of 1858, amount to the sum of 67,052 dollars, of which has been expended within the same period of time, \$66,021 52, leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,030 48. The aggregate *special* appropriations for the past year amount to the sum of seventeen thousand nine hundred and fourteen dollars seventy-three cents, (\$17,914 73,) of which has been expended \$16,413 13, leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,501 60.

The annual and special appropriations above specified, for the year, when added together, amount to the aggregate sum of \$84,966 73; the expenditures for the same period foot up \$82,434 65, leaving unexpended and to the credit of the city \$2,532 08.

On entering upon the duties incident to this department, (July 10, 1858,) I found the appropriations, which were not of a *special* character, and therefore liable to be drawn upon at will by my predecessor, in several instances greatly reduced or quite exhausted; for example, the appropriation for Hunting Park was \$2,000, and three-fourths at least expended; appropriation for Norris Square was \$1000, and some \$30 left, for fuel \$1,200, and *ten twelfths* thereof expended; the amount also appropriated to court houses and law buildings, together with public squares, was \$4,500, and were alike found in the same lean category. Therefore, to manage the department without increasing the city's indebtedness, and yet advance the public interests, has been matter of no little anxiety; with some trifling transfers, however, and with a comparatively *insignificant* appropriation of \$1,000, the threatened difficulties have been surmounted. Much, in fact, has been accomplished in improving the squares, not only by manuring, rooting out noxious weeds or plants, relaying brick water-courses and other repairs, but by removing dead and dangerous limbs of trees, and uprooting in numerous cases their dead trunks, and transplanting others of a rare, ornamental and shady character, to beautify and improve the grounds. That the *iron railings* of the different squares require more or less painting to preserve them from corrosion and lasting injury, is a fact which cannot with any degree of candor be gainsayed; therefore I am led to hope that should the appropriation shortly to be made by Councils fall short of enabling this department to accomplish its whole duty in this respect, Councils will not lose sight of a work so indispensable, but will, in their wisdom, adopt some plan by which it may be done.

The gates to the squares also require early repairs, especially those which open and shut on rollers, being quite unsafe for children and even adults to pass in and out. Hence, immediately upon the passage of the appropriation bill, will set about repairing them, which will cost near \$300.

Steps have been taken, and are being vigorously followed up, with a view to the early improvement of Fairmount Park ; tenants have been removed, a superintendent appointed, and hands have been busily employed recently in preparing the park for an anticipated liberal appropriation, to carry out the wishes and expectations of the donors, to make this beautiful location one of the finest parks in the world ; in short, it cannot be better described than by adopting the language (in a report upon the subject,) of a former Committee of City Property, viz : "The quiet shades and sunny slopes of these beautiful grounds, the noble trees which adorn them, the river which flows beside them, and the extensive and varied prospect of a charming landscape which they command,—all combine to mark this spot as one of unequaled fitness for a park, sacred to the health and enjoyment of all the people forever." When spring opens upon us, it is suggested that these grounds be surrounded to the Schuylkill with good and permanent fences, and other improvements be made, such as the character of the park would seem to demand.

Much remains to be done in filling up the large and deep excavations, and otherwise accomplishing the work begun at *Norris Square* ; indeed the appropriation of \$1,000 likely to be made by Councils for this purpose, will neither satisfy the wishes of the citizens in that vicinity, nor will its fruits scarcely be recognized, however prudently expended.

The Hunting Park, too, is yet in comparative embryo ; and although many trees have been planted, more will be needed ; besides, numerous walks now laid out should be pushed to completion ; and drains so essential to the life, growth and preservation of the trees already planted, be effectually made, if the designs of its originators and the plan of its very able superintendent are to be even partially consummated. In brief, the trifling outlay so indispensable to the proper care, preservation and improvements of our beautiful squares and parks, notwithstanding the city's indebtedness, should come without grudging ; nay, be cheerfully meted out, for in no sense can our city legislators confer more lasting benefits upon its tax-payers and citizens generally.

The tobacco warehouse has been rented with a view to increase

the revenue of the city, believing it will pay better in the hands of others, than under the supervision of the city, which I have no doubt will be realized.

Considering the limited means afforded this department, in the item of repairs to city property, in the shape of dwellings, halls, &c., considerable repairs have been profitably added to these properties, and certainly there is plenty of margin to expend with equal advantage and economy, a much larger appropriation than I presume Councils will think of granting.

The wire bridge (according to contract,) has been lately well painted with two coats of the best white lead, ground in linseed oil, for the sum of \$460, less, by nearly one-half, the cost of this work, than when painted at former periods; it has also been screwed up and otherwise repaired for \$31 25, thus making the total expense less than \$500.

The clock at Spring Garden Hall, for the first time since its erection, has been cleaned, repaired and put in perfect running order at a small expense, to the great gratification of the people within its circle of hearers, who are doubtless friends to true time. Annexed is a schedule of the real estate, &c., amount of appropriations and expenditures, together with the receipts of this department, &c., marked consecutively A, B, and C.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

Your obedient servant,

J. M. CHRISTOPHER,

Commissioner of City Property.

[A.]

Real Estate under the control of the Department of City Property.

Independence Hall, known as the State House, County Buildings, situated on Chestnut street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, in the Fifth Ward.

Northern Liberties Hall, situated on the east side of north Third street, below Green street, in the Eleventh Ward.

Spring Garden Commissioners' Hall, situated on the north-west corner of Spring Garden and Thirteenth streets, in the Fourteenth Ward.

Penn District Commissioners' Hall, situated on the north-east corner of Tenth and Thompson streets, in the Twentieth Ward, now occupied as a police station.

Kensington Commissioners' Hall, situated on the north-east corner of Front and Master streets, in the Seventeenth Ward.

Richmond Commissioners' Hall, situated at the corner of Clearfield and West streets, in the Nineteenth Ward.

West Philadelphia Commissioners' Hall, situated on the corner of Parke and Washington streets, in the Twenty-fourth Ward.

Southwark Commissioners' Hall, situated on the east side of south Second street, between Queen and Christian streets, in the Third Ward.

Moyamensing Commissioners' Hall, situated on the south side of Christian street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, in the Second Ward.

Germantown Hall, situated in the late borough of Germantown, now in the Twenty-second Ward.

Manayunk Town Hall, situated in the late borough of Manayunk, now in the Twenty-third Ward.

Mayor and Marshal's offices, situated at the south-west corner of Fifth and Chestnut streets, now in the Fifth Ward.

The Wire Bridge, at the foot of Callowhill street, over the Schuylkill river.

A burial ground, situated on Charles street, containing two acres.

The Tobacco Warehouse, situated on the north-west corner of Front and Spruce streets.

The station house, situated in the late borough of Frankford, now in the Twenty-third Ward.

Five stores, situated on south Front street, extending from Dock to Spruce street.

A dwelling house, situated on Front, above Noble street, containing 19 feet front by 20 feet deep, two stories in height.

A dwelling house and lot, situated on Front, above Noble street, containing 89 feet on Front street and Washington avenue, and 149½ feet on Noble street.

A dwelling house, situated on Third street, above Tammany street, adjoining the Commissioners' Hall.

Two dwelling houses, situated on Carpenter street, above Sixth street ; both houses on the same lot.

A stable, situated on the lot of ground corner of Washington avenue and Noble street. This lot contains 120 feet on Noble street and 38 feet on Washington avenue.

A lot, situated on the west side of Sutherland avenue, having a front of about 3 feet on Christian street, extending north until it strikes the south line of the Southwark Hall about 114 feet.

A lot, situated on West and Railroad streets, formerly in the district of Richmond.

A lot, upon which there is erected three frame dwellings, situated in the Twenty-third Ward, formerly the borough of Frankford.

A stone school house and frame building, and two acres of ground, situated in the Twenty-third Ward, formerly in Bridesburg.

Two dwellings, situated in the late borough of Frankford, in the Twenty-third Ward.

A large tract of ground, with a stone building erected thereon, known as the Lemon Hill Estate, containing about 50 acres, more or less, situated in the Fifteenth Ward, formerly Penn Township.

A lot of ground, situated on the north-west corner of Race and Crown streets, containing 125 feet, more or less, on Race street, and 240 feet on Crown street. Upon this lot is erected a dwelling on Race street, four dwellings in Richardson's court, a dwelling corner of Crown and Race streets, four dwellings, and one church edifice on Crown street, above Race ; this property was purchased as a site for a market house.

A lot of ground, situated on Spruce and Pine streets, between Twentieth and Twenty-first streets, containing 145 feet on Twentieth street, and also the same on Twenty-first street. Purchased as a site for a market house.

A ground rent, situated on the north-east corner of Front and Spruce streets, payable by Hunt & Isaacs.

A ground rent, situated on Oak street (east side) north of Coates street, payable by Henry Stiles.

A ground rent, situated on the west side of Oak street, near Coates street, payable by Lower & Donohugh.

- A ground rent on lot situated on the west side of Fourth street, north of Chestnut street, payable by C. Benkert.
- A ground rent on lot situated on the corner of Front street and Black Horse alley, payable by Samuel Carswell's heirs.
- A ground rent, situated on the Frankford road, above Cherry street, payable by Lawrence Dillon.
- Two ground rents, situated on Race street, (lots Nos. 19 and 21,) payable by C. C. Gaskill and George Scott.
- A ground rent, situated on Front street, near Coates street, payable by George Ireland's heirs.
- A ground rent, situated on the corner of Shippen and Fourth streets, payable by Sarah Pleasants.
- Two ground rents, situated on Second street and Strawberry street, payable by Townsend Sharpless.
- A ground rent, situated on the corner of Tenth and Locust streets, payable by George Smith.
- A ground rent, situated on Arch street, between Sixth and Seventh streets, payable by Joseph Wood.
- A ground rent, situated on the corner of Fifth and Plumb streets, payable by Alexander Young.
- Four ground rents, situated on the north side of Spring Garden street above Thirteenth street, payable by Charles E. D'Invilliers and others.
- A dwelling house, situated on the east side of Fifth street above Race street.
- A lot, situated on Jones and Filbert streets, corner of Sixteenth street, containing 106 feet on Sixteenth street, and 182 feet on Jones and Filbert streets.
- A lot, situated on the north side of Market, on which the gasometer now stands, extending from Twenty-second to Twenty-third street, containing about 273 feet on High street, by 306 on Twenty-second street.
- A ground rent, situated on Lombard street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, payable by Samuel Fiss.
- A ground rent, situated on Lombard street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, payable by John A. Owens.

- A ground rent, situated on Lombard street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, payable by John McKee.
- A ground rent, situated on Lombard street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, payable by E. Clarke Davis.
- A ground rent, situated on Lombard street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, payable by Lavinia Doughty.
- A ground rent, situated on Lombard street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, payable by James Downes.
- A ground rent, situated on Lombard street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, payable by Morris Hall.
- Two ground rents, situated on Lombard street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, payable by Joseph Fareira.
- A ground rent, situated on Lombard street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, payable by Elton Dunbar.
- A ground rent, situated on Tenth street, below Lombard street, payable by William H. Gray.
- A ground rent, situated in the Twenty-fourth Ward, payable by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.
- A ground rent, situated on the north-east corner of Front and Dock streets, payable by Hanse Hamilton.
- A ground rent, situated on Union street, between Third and Fourth streets, payable by R. & G. A. Wright.
- A two-story brick dwelling house, situated in Brock st., above Tamany.
- A lot in Frankford, on which is erected a market house.
- Independence Square, situated in the square between Fifth and Sixth and Walnut and Chestnut streets.
- Penn Square, laid off in four squares. The north-west lot is three hundred and six feet, by two hundred and twenty-three feet. The north-east lot is three hundred and six feet, by two hundred and twenty-eight feet. The south-east lot is two hundred and thirty feet, by two hundred and twenty-three feet.
- Washington Square, situated between Sixth and Washington streets, and Walnut and Locust streets, 540 feet north and south, and 540 feet 4 inches east and west.
- Franklin Square, situated between Race and Vine streets, and Sixth and Franklin streets, containing 632 feet north and south, and 543 feet 6 inches east and west.

Rittenhouse Square, situated between Walnut and Locust streets, and Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets, containing 540 feet north and south, and 540 feet 4 inches east and west.

Logan Square, situated between Race and Vine streets, and Eighteenth and Logan streets, containing 632 feet north and south, and 540 east and west.

Jefferson Square, situated at the corner of Fourth and Washington streets.

Richmond Square, situated in the late Borough of Bridesburg.

Fair-Hill Square, situated at the corner of Lehigh avenue and Fourth streets, containing 500 feet by 210 feet.

Norris Square, situated at the corner of Susquehanna avenue and Hancock street, 330 feet by 486 feet.

A Public Square, situated at the corner of Frankford road, Maiden and Beach streets, containing 96 feet by 128 feet.

Germantown Square, situated in the late Borough of Germantown, corner of Germantown avenue and Mill street, containing one-half acre.

Hunting Park, situated on the York pike and Nicetown lane, now in the Twenty-first Ward.

A bond and mortgage on lot and house situated in Haddington, payable by George R. Smith, for six hundred dollars.

A property on Hart's lane and Lamb Tavern road, on which is a house, &c. Lot contains about eleven acres, part of which is now occupied as a burial ground, and upon which has recently been affixed a frame house, brought from Lemon Hill, to be used as a green house.

[B.]

Amount of Revenue derived from the Property described in the foregoing Schedule, during the year eighteen hundred and fifty-eight.

For City Rental, -	-	-	-	-	\$14,327 22
For Ground Rents, -	-	-	-	-	7,483 30
For Mortgages, -	-	-	-	-	490 00
For Incidentals, -	-	-	-	-	2,676 11
For Tobacco Warehouse, -	-	-	-	-	2,035 38
For Guardians of the Poor, ground rents, -	-	-	-	-	606 62
Total, -	-	-	-	-	<u>\$27,618 63</u>

[C.]

Appropriations and Expenditures of the Department of City Property for the year 1858.

No.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.	Amount of Appropriations	Warrants Issued.	Balances Which Merge.
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS.				
<i>Approved January 18th, 1858.</i>				
1	Salaries of Commissioner and Messenger of City Property.....	\$2,000 00	\$2,000 00	
2	Stationery and office expenses.....	200 00	199 00	1 00
3	Salaries of Collector of Revenue and Watchman at the Tobacco Warehouse.....	1,160 00	1,160 00	
4	Labor at the Tobacco Warehouse.....	50 00	45 50	4 50
5	Salaries of Superintendents of Halls, Law Buildings and Jury Rooms.....	2,400 00	2,400 00	
6	Salaries of house cleaners, and expenses of cleaning Public Halls.....	\$400 00		
	Amount transferred to Item 16.....	51 50		
7	Salaries of Watchman, and Superintendents of State House and Public offices.....	348 50	320 01	28 49
8	Salaries of two Watchmen at Wire Bridge.....	2,500 00	2,500 00	
9	Salaries of three Watchmen at the State House Steeple.....	1,000 00	1,000 00	
10	Salaries of Superintendents of Public Squares and City Burial Ground.....	1,500 00	1,500 00	
11	For Improvement of Fairmount Park.....	4,700 00	4,700 00	
	Amount transferred to Item 22.....	\$2,600 00		
	“ “ Item 24.....	1,000 00		
12	For Improvement of Norris Square.....	250 00	1,250 00	1,006 39
				243 61
13	For Improvements at Hunting Park, and salary of Superintendent.....	1,000 00	986 13	13 87
14	Salaries of the Keepers and Regulators of Public Clocks, Rent of Office and City Law Building.....	2,000 00	1,999 72	28
15	Cleaning and Repairing Public Clocks.....	500 00	500 00	
16	By transfer from Item 6.....	6,500 00	6,500 00	
17	For State Taxes.....	\$100 00		
	By transfer from Item 6.....	51 50	151 50	151 50
18	For repairs and improvements to City Property.....	\$500 00		
19	Ground Rents and Interest on Mortgages.....	500 00	2,000 00	1,998 38
20	For Curbing and Paving.....	13,367 00	13,044 26	1 62
21	By transfer to Item 22.....	\$400 00		322 74
22	For Insurance.....	150 00	250 00	248 22
	By transfer to Item 22.....	\$15 00		1 78
23	For repairs, cleaning, and supplies other than Books and Stationery, to Court Houses and Law Buildings.....	\$2,000 00		
	By transfer from Item 11.....	1,000 00		
	“ “ 20.....	150 00		
	“ “ 21.....	15 00		
24	For Fuel for Law Buildings, Court Rooms and Offices. For Labor and other expenses at Public Squares.....	\$2,500 00		
	By transfer from Item 17.....	500 00		
	“ “ 11.....	250 00		
25	For Repairing and Painting Wire Bridge.....	3,250 00	3,250 00	
26	For Expenses of gas in lighting Halls, Squares, Offices, &c., occupied for city purposes, including Station Houses.....	500 00	491 25	8 75
27	For Gas furnished by the City Gas Company, Southwark and Moyamensing, Kensington, and Germantown Gas Companies, during the year 1858.....	4,000 00	3,956 12	43 88
28	To pay an instalment on the principal sum of the mortgage on Sedgeley Park.....	2,000 00	1,647 33	352 67
		10,000 00	10,000 00	
Total of general appropriations.....		67,052 00	66,021 52	1,030 48

Nos.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.	Amount of Appropriations	Warrants Issued.	Balances Which Merge.
	GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS, brought forward,.....	\$67,052 00	\$66,021 52	\$1,030 48
	SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.			
	Appropriation to pay gas bills incurred previous and up to January 1st, 1858, approved June 12th, 1858,	5,455 24	5,455 24	
	Appropriation to pay labor and other expenses at Public Squares, by ordinance approved August 23d, 1858.....	1,000 00	1,000 00	
	Appropriations for the following purposes, by an ordinance approved September 14th, 1858, viz:			
	For repairs of the wall and iron railing on the south side of Independence Square.....	175 00	175 00	
	For payment of bills of paving and curb setting on Wood street, opposite Norris square, from Howard to Hancock street.....	868 16	868 16	
	For payment of bills for paving and curb setting at city premises upon Twenty-first street, between Spruce and Pine streets.....	43 19	43 19	
	For payment of bills for paving and curb setting opposite city premises on Twentieth street, between Wallace and Coates streets.....	356 24	356 24	
	Appropriation to pay claims for the construction of the Eleventh District Station House in the Nineteenth Ward, by ordinance approved October 28th, 1858.....	8,916 90	8,515 30	401 60
	Appropriation to pay various State Taxes, by ordinance approved October 28th, 1857.....	1,100 00	.....	1,100 00
		\$84,966 73	\$82,434 65	\$2,532 08

MARKET HOUSES.

OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT OF MARKET HOUSES,

Philadelphia, January 8th, 1859.

To ALEXANDER HENRY, Esq.,

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia,

In accordance with your request of December 18th, 1858, I respectfully submit the accompanying papers, as statements of the receipts, expenditures, etc. of this department for the year 1858. The statements are not as detailed and accurate as I could have wished, owing to the great confusion in which I found the department, when I entered upon the duties of the office.

The Statement, No. 1, embraces the receipts from the market houses for the year 1858; and, although taken from the books of

my predecessor, I do not consider it either reliable or accurate, but as this matter will come more particularly under the report of the City Controller, I merely offer this as the only statement that can be made by this department at present.

The Statement, No. 2, embraces the annual rents of the wharves and landings. I cannot give any information concerning the receipts of this department for the year 1858, as the book accounts are disputed, and in the hands of the City Controller and Solicitor.

The Statement, No. 3, contains the report of the money disbursed and balance unexpended of the appropriations made to the Departments of Market Houses and Wharves and Landings, for the year 1858. The cause of so large a balance of the appropriations being unexpended, arises from the fact of restrictions placed upon certain items, which prevented the expenditure of more than \$100 per month; and it is owing to this fact also, that the market houses and wharves are in such bad condition.

The probable amount of revenue to be derived from the market houses, for the present year, will be fifty-seven thousand dollars, after deducting the loss of revenue from the market houses in Market street.

The amount of revenue from the wharves and landings may be set down at forty-eight thousand dollars, for the present year; it may reach a higher figure, as an alteration has been made in the manner of disposing of the leases.

A general law for the better regulation of the markets is much needed; the ordinances of the old districts are still unrepealed, and the privileges said to have been granted by the old corporations, render it impossible for me to reform the abuses existing, until such a law shall have been enacted.

Respectfully yours,

N. T. BAROUX,
Commissioner.

STATEMENT NO. 1.

Receipts of Rents from Market Houses in 1858.

Wharton Markets, Sections 1 and 2,.....	\$290 00
Washington Markets, Sections 3 and 4.....	4,989 00
Eleventh st. " " 4 and 6.....	2,725 00
Market st. " " 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15....	26,484 00
S. Second st., " " 16 and 17.....	8,290 00
Broad & Race sts. " " 18 and 19.....	602 37
N. Second st. " " 20 and 21	5,138 00
Callowhill st. " " 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28.....	3,641 00
Spring Garden st. " " 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35.....	8,080 50
Girard avenue " " 36, 37, 38, 39, 40	2,642 75
Franklin avenue " " 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, & 52 & 53	4,709 25
Beach st. " " 48.....	2 00
Richmond " " 46, 50 and 51.....	171 75
Frankford " 	180 00
Stands—Broad and Market, Filbert and Juniper.....	1,220 00
Fish Company's stands.....	220 00
Total.....	<u>\$69,446 37</u>

STATEMENT No. 2.

Annual Rent of Wharves and Landings.

Dickerson street.....	\$50 00	Poplar street.....	\$500 00
Reed " 	150 00	Maiden " 	150 00
Prime " 	275 00	Shackamaxon street.....	425 00
Washington " 	400 00	Marlborough " 	100 00
Christian " 	2,550 00	Hanover " 	425 00
Queen " 	100 00	Palmer " 	625 00
Catharine " 	325 00	Warren " 	205 00
Davis' Landing 	100 00	Cumberland " 	25 00
Almond street.....	900 00	William " 	50 00
South " 	1,100 00	Bridesburg Landing.....	100 00
Pine " 	600 00	Bridesburg Creek Landing...	25 00
Spruce " 	500 00	Green Lane " 	10 00
Dock " 	4,000 00		
Walnut " 	1,500 00	Coates street, Schuylkill.....	150 00
Chesnut " 	2,700 00	Wood " 	150 00
Market " (South)	2,600 00	Race " 	40 00
Market " (North)....	800 00	Arch " 	50 00
Arch " 	4,200 00	Chestnut " 	4,580 00
Race " 	2,000 00	George " 	125 00
Vine " 	2,500 00	Walnut " 	125 00
Callowhill " 	3,550 00	Locust " 	25 00
Noble " 	3,500 00	Pine " 	131 00
Green " 	3,500 00	South " 	50 00
Coates " 	3,800 00	Callowhill, west side,	100 00

STATEMENT No. 3.

Appropriation and Unexpended Balance, Market Houses, 1858.

Appropriations for Department of Market Houses for 1858	\$11,083 70
Balance unexpended.....	\$1,816 57

Appropriation and Unexpended Balance, Wharves and Landings, 1858.

Appropriation for Department of Wharves and Landings for 1858.....	\$4,982 86
Balance unexpended.....	\$2,781 53

CITY ICE BOAT.

OFFICE, TRUSTEES OF CITY ICE BOAT,
Philadelphia, January 3d, 1859.

HON. ALEXANDER HENRY,
Mayor,

SIR:—In reply to your communication, dated December 18th, 1858, requesting this Board to furnish a statement of the general condition and affairs of the ice-boat under their charge, I beg leave to refer you to the report made by this Board to Councils, May 27th, 1858, (See Appendix No. 29, Journal of Select Council,) from which the following is an extract, viz.:

“The Trustees of the City Ice Boat have to record a winter of much shorter duration than we have had for several years, although, while it lasted, the cold was very severe, and the ice in the river Delaware, particularly at the Horse Shoe, was exceedingly thick and heavy, requiring the almost unceasing employment of the boat to keep the channel open between the city and Chester; she accomplished this duty in a manner most satisfactory to the Trustees, who consider that the extensive alterations and repairs made to her hull and boilers, in the years 1856–7, have rendered her as complete and powerful an ice breaker as can be constructed, and that her strength and ability is much increased by the alterations

then made. The slight defect in the boilers, which caused the water in them to foam whenever she entered salt water from fresh, or vice versa, to which allusion was made in the last annual report, has been entirely cured.

“The boat was put into service on the 17th of February, and was actively employed for one month, having been laid up on the 17th of March, during which period she towed and rendered services to twenty-two vessels and steamships, earning therefor \$1,546 78, which has been paid over to the City Treasurer. This sum is small when compared with the amounts earned for towage in several previous years, but is accounted for by the following facts, viz: 1st. That the boat was in service for only about one-third of the usual time; and 2d. That owing to the general prostration of all kinds of mercantile business, the number of vessels arriving at and departing from this port was very limited, consequently there was but little demand for towage.

“For the time the boat was in service, she has never steamed as much, having worked every day, and some part of the time at night, with the exception of one day required for cleaning the boilers, which, in former years, has been done usually every week. The machinery worked admirably throughout, and no time was lost either for repairs to it or the wheels.

“Annexed is a statement of the amounts expended from the various items of appropriation made by Councils, for the year 1858, together with the balance remaining on hand to the credit of the Trustees, from which it will be seen that the balance unexpended up to this time is unusually large, particularly for items ‘fuel,’ ‘wages,’ and ‘provisions;’ this is also owing to the short term of the boat’s service, the estimate of the appropriation, as prepared by the Trustees, being based upon a period of ten weeks.

"The boat is now in excellent order, and will require but little if any repairs during the balance of the year. She is lying in the first dock above the Navy Yard, in charge of the engineer and watchman, and is insured against fire for \$21,000.

"The Trustees have received in cash since the first of January last, viz. :

For a lot of old iron, - - -	\$22 89
For balance of towage earned in 1857, - -	77 17
For amount of towage earned in 1858, - -	1,546 78
	\$1,646 84
And have paid to the City Treasurer, -	\$1,646 84

This report embraces all the facts in relation to the boat up to the date above mentioned, since which time she has been laid up. She is now ready for service whenever needed.

Annexed is a statement of the appropriation for 1858, showing the amount expended, and the balance which merged in the City Treasury December 31st, 1858.

Appropriations to Trustees of City Ice Boat for the year 1858.

	Repairs.	Fuel.	Wages.	Provisions	Insurance, Wharfage & Incidentals.	Beds and Bedding.
Amount of appropriations for 1858.....	\$3,000 00	\$4,000 00	\$3,000 00	\$850 00	\$500 00	\$125 00
Amount expended.....	1,412 06	2,670 31	2,112 45	280 65	452 50	125 00
Balance unexpended.....	\$1,587 94	\$1,329 69	\$887 55	\$569 35	\$47 50	

All of which is respectfully submitted,

By the Trustees of the City Ice Boat,

JOHN DEVEREUX,
President.

GAS WORKS.

OFFICE PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS,
January, 1859.

HON. ALEX. HENRY,
Mayor, &c.

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with your request, I transmit the within statements of the receipts and expenditures of the city gas trust for the year ending Dec. 31, 1858, together with a brief exposition of the present state of the works and trust funds, and of their operations during the past year.

All the mechanical structures are in good condition of repair and efficiency, having abundant capacity to satisfy the wants of the present number of consumers, and to meet all demands of current expenses for management and maintenance, and final liquidation of all the loans issued for construction—in a word, have the ability of entire self-sustainment.

The property now included in the trust embraces the works and pipes belonging to the old city, the former districts of Spring Garden, Moyamensing, and West Philadelphia, the borough of Frankford, and the Gas Companies of Germantown, Richmond, and Southwark; the three companies last named having recently conveyed their property in trust, under the provisions of the ordinance of the tenth day of May, A. D. 1858.

In those wards of the city which were comprised in the late districts of Northern Liberties and Kensington, and also in Manayunk, the supply of gas is furnished by private companies, incorporated under Acts of Assembly.

The directors of the Manayunk Gas Company propose to convey their works in trust, under the before mentioned ordinance, in the month of April next.

The advantages of gas light, both for public and private convenience, are now so fully appreciated, as to give rise to a general desire for the extension of its benefits to all parts of the city, not strictly rural.

Numerous petitions asking for pipes and fixtures for supplying many thousand lights, have been presented by citizens in various sections of the city, who are justly entitled to the accommodation they request, but cannot obtain it unless they pay the entire cost of the requisite street mains, service-pipes and meters, as the funds which the Trustees of the Gas Works could lawfully apply to these purposes have been exhausted by their past extensions.

A bill, framed by the Committee on Gas Works, to meet the necessities of the case, is now pending in Common Council, and, if enacted in the shape recommended by the committee, it will enable the trust to supply every reasonable application, and also to refund to citizens the moneys they have been obliged to advance in order to get their much needed supply of light. If, however, the bill should be amended in the manner that has been suggested by its opponents in Councils, so as to forbid the use of any part of the loan for increasing the manufacturing capacity of the works, its benefits cannot be extended as fast as they are desired, as the gas trust ought not to increase their distribution beyond their ability to supply gas, and must therefore proceed with the former, at such rate only as the current profits will enable them to increase the latter. So long as the accession of new customers shall continue to be limited by the present requirement of payment for pipes and meters by the consumer, the increase of demand for gas will not probably outrun the ability to meet it out of the profits. But as soon as this impediment is removed by the authorization of a loan, the increased demand will be much beyond this limit.

The smallness of the margin now existing between the demand and the supply becomes evident, when it is known that the consumption in 24 hours has already reached within $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the maximum capacity of manufacture.

The consumption in December reached a maximum per day of 2,368,000 cubic feet, and the greatest capacity of daily production is only 2,700,000, without making any allowance for the daily wear, or accidental breaking down of retorts and furnaces.

Should the proposed restriction be attached to the ordinance for

the loan, the result would be to put a stop to the reception of new consumers, while a large portion of the loan remained unexpended.

Very respectfully,

JNO. C. CRESSON,

Chief Engineer.

Statistics of Manufacture and Distribution.

The quantity of gas manufactured in the works that are under the trust, during the year 1858, is four hundred and eighty millions, two hundred and eight thousand cubic feet (480,208,000 c. f.), making a total production, since the origin of the works, of 3,678,-296,000 cubic feet.

The present extent of street mains, is 255 miles. The number of customers supplied, service pipes and meters, is 28,897. The total number of lights supplied from these works, is a little over 375,000.

Cash Account of the Trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works, for 1858, received during the year.

For gas, main pipe and services, coke, tar, lime, &c., at this office, and at Spring Garden, Germantown, Frankford, Richmond, and West Philadelphia, - - - - -	\$820,086 99
For Sales of loan 9, - - - - -	33,700 00
For City warrants, - - - - -	288,030 95
For Interest on loans, - - - - -	9,195 00
For Interest on city loans, - - - - -	6,647 50
For City loans (redeemed,) - - - - -	7,100 00
	\$1,164,760 44

Paid during the year—

For Works, street mains, repairs, coals, wages, and expenses, - - - - -	\$742,000 68
For temporary loans (paid off,) - - - - -	65,000 00
For Interest on loans, - - - - -	49,457 65
For Interest on loan 9, and appropriations to the City Treasurer for the redemption of \$450,000, of city debt, - - - - -	66,000 00
For Discount on city warrants, - - - - -	431 25
For City and gas loans, bought for account of the sinking fund, - - - - -	213,749 00
Balance, - - - - -	28,121 86
	\$1,164,760 44

City and Gas Loans belonging to the Sinking Fund, Jan. 1, 1858.

Six per cent. city loans, - - - - -	\$38,300 00
Six per cent. gas loans, - - - - -	545,300 00
Five per cent. city loans, - - - - -	49,800 00
Five per cent. gas loans, - - - - -	93,900 00
	\$727,300 00
The cost of which was, - - - - -	\$735,961 05

Bought during the year 1858.

Six per cent. city loans, - - - - -	\$157,200 00
Six per cent. gas loans, - - - - -	40,000 00
Five per cent. city loans, - - - - -	12,000 00
Five per cent. gas loans, - - - - -	2,900 00
	\$212,100 00

Making the amount of city and gas loans, now held by the "Trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works, in trust for the Sinking Fund," -	\$939,400 00
Which cost, - - - - -	\$942,610 05

Attest:

WM. FENNELL,
Cashier.

WATER DEPARTMENT.

To the Honorable ALEXANDER HENRY,

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia,

SIR:—This city was for many years celebrated on account of the copious supply of good water constantly furnished to the citizens, but in its rapid growth it has extended beyond the limits of the capacity of its water supply, and you are no doubt aware that our Water Works are now not sufficient to meet the wants of the city. An early opportunity was taken of calling the attention of the present Councils to the deficiency of the works, and means asked for to make such enlargements as the absolute present wants of the city require. A small amount was also asked for, to make the necessary examinations and preliminary surveys for bringing water from a distance beyond the influence of the city. A better supply of water was kept up the latter part of the year than the former, yet the complaints of want of water from some parts of the city were just, while it was not in the power of the department to remedy the deficiency complained of. Your police rendered much valuable assistance in stopping the large waste of water produced by the promiscuous and illegal use of the fire plugs. The department will require your assistance the coming summer, and with economy on the part of the citizens in the use of the water, a supply equal to the necessities of the city can, it is hoped, be furnished.

Water pipes have been laid to a larger extent the past year than any previous one, 67,293 feet have been laid in various streets of the city. As it is only laid when petitioned for by the owners of property in front of which it passes, who pay the expense of laying the pipe, it exhibits the rapid growth

of the city. The following table exhibits the amount of water supplied to the city during the year, and shows an average daily increase of 1,428,835 gallons over the previous year.

Months.	Number of gallons pumped each month during the year.	Average number of gallons pumped per day each month.
January, - -	468,813,703	15,123,022
February, - -	379,580,100	13,556,423
March, - - -	470,333,332	15,172,043
April, - - -	574,484,760	19,149,492
May, - - -	550,246,559	17,749,889
June, - - -	681,710,529	22,723,684
July, - - -	752,081,590	24,260,696
August, - - -	681,138,833	21,972,220
September, - -	681,536,834	22,717,844
October, - -	622,085,830	20,067,284
November, - -	513,786,142	17,126,204
December, - -	463,627,757	14,955,734
Total, - -	6,839,425,959	

Daily average, - - - - 18,738,153

The expenses for the year have been as follows :

Salaries,	-	-	-	-	\$31,232 82
Supplies, including coal, oil, &c.,	-	-	-	-	37,088 74
Repairs of Works,	-	-	-	-	20,966 66
Extension of mains,	-	-	-	-	81,265 41
Repairs of mains and keeping plugs and stops in order,	-	-	-	-	12,293 49
Taxes,	-	-	-	-	393 49
Re-assessment,	-	-	-	-	3,145 00
Special appropriation of Councils,	-	-	-	-	185 06
Total,					\$186,570 58

The receipts have been for iron pipe in front

of property,	-	-	-	-	\$37,130 07
Water rents, penalties &c.,	-	-	-	-	420,388 41

Total receipts,	-	-	-	-	\$457,518 48
Being an excess of receipts over the expenditures, of	-	-	-	-	\$270,947 90

The re-assessment of the water rents, which has been commenced, and to a great extent finished, has been found to require much more time and a larger expenditure than was at first anticipated, but it will also bring a much larger return than was expected; the annual water rents will be increased about \$60,000, without any change of rates, which amount has heretofore been lost to the city. The most rigid economy has been used in the management of the works, and a large saving in the running expenses effected. I would again call your attention to the necessity of immediately enlarging the works. When it is remembered that they yield the city a large return over all expenses, no hesitation should be felt in making the necessary appropriations. The profit of these works to the city for the past four years has been as follows :

	Receipts.	Expenditures.	Balance profit.
1855,	\$382,036 72	\$250,895 37	\$131,141 35
1856,	351,936 49	139,954 95	212,981 64
1857,	425,426 11	200,605 82	224,820 29
1858,	457,518 48	186,570 58	270,947 90

There is but \$672,700 of outstanding loan on account of the Water Works, to be redeemed.

Yours respectfully,

HENRY P. M. BIRKINBINE,

January 8th, 1859.

Chief Engineer.

DEPARTMENT FOR SUPPLYING THE CITY WITH WATER,
Philadelphia, January 8th, 1859.

Hon. ALEXANDER HENRY, Mayor,

In compliance with your request, I have to report that the receipts of this department are rapidly increasing, for instance the total receipts for Water rents, Iron pipes &c., for

1855 was,	-	-	-	\$381,410 17
1856 “	-	-	-	414,365 80
1857 “	-	-	-	425,661 94
1858 “	-	-	-	457,518 48

In consequence of the extraordinary amount of labor required to make the new registration of Water rents, as directed by ordinance of October 16th, 1858, it is impossible to have all the duplicates for 1859 prepared by the second Monday of January, the time required.

Since the adoption of the ordinance for making the re-assessment, a large force has been constantly employed in examining every dwelling house, store, manufactory, and other building, and making daily reports to this office in detail.

A large number of discoveries of fraudulent use of water have been made, and I have no doubt that the whole increase in the income of this department, from the re-assessment, will exceed \$75,000.

The total receipts for 1859 will probably reach \$550,000, a large gain, and making the Water Works a source of great profit to the city.

Great care has been taken in making the new registers, and when completed, they will no doubt do away with errors and discrepancies proceeding from the present imperfect system.

The assessment has been made by wards instead of districts, as before.

A statement of the financial operations of the department for the past year is hereunto annexed, marked A.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. P. WHITE,

Register of the Water Department.

A.—Total amount of receipts and payments made to the City Treasurer from January 1st, to December 31st, 1858.

5

	Rents of 1856.	Rents of 1857.	Penalties of 1857.	Rents of 1858.	Penalties of 1858.	Iron Pipe.	Fractional Rents.	Total.	Paid City Treasurer.
January,	\$36 45	\$3,916 50	562 13	\$25,314 25	.....	\$3,179 48	\$1,318 35	\$34,327 16	\$34,327 16
February,		2,124 25	295 24	38,250 00	.....	1,898 01	884 94	43,452 47	43,452 47
March,		1,811 50	255 00	223,264 58	.....	1,071 59	1,048 90	227,451 57	227,451 57
April,		506 00	69 28	10,163 25	428 11	1,577 09	2,062 49	15,406 22	15,406 22
May,		595 25	77 28	7,931 00	381 70	1,078 66	1,659 33	11,723 22	11,723 22
June,		471 75	64 76	38,981 75	1,901 49	1,940 32	1,800 44	45,220 51	45,220 51
July,		390 00	57 26	2,329 00	334 24	2,012 78	2,132 10	7,255 38	7,255 38
August,		269 50	36 23	9,400 48	1,403 30	2,708 21	1,912 11	15,799 83	15,799 83
September,		25 00	3 75	12,091 25	1,749 77	4,192 84	1,742 94	19,735 55	19,735 55
October,		13 50	2 02	3,624 75	888 65	6,331 46	1,106 23	11,516 61	11,516 61
November,		44 50	6 67	6,034 75	879 25	6,304 78	1,000 99	14,270 94	14,270 94
December,		119 00	15 15	4,355 25	619 79	4,784 82	1,405 01	11,359 02	11,359 02
	\$36 45	\$10,286 75	\$1,444 77	\$381,740 31	\$8,086 30	\$37,130 07	\$18,793 83	\$457,518 48	\$457,518 48

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

HEALTH OFFICE,
Philadelphia, January 5th, 1859.

HON. ALEXANDER HENRY,
 Mayor of the City of Philadelphia,

DEAR SIR :—The Board of Health take great pleasure, at the close of the fiscal year of 1858, in presenting to your honor, and through you, to the City Councils, such information relative to this department, as is called for by you, in your communication of December 18th, 1858.

The accompanying documents will give you in full detail the amounts of appropriation to this Department for the year 1858, together with the amounts expended, carefully set forth under the respective items, as well as the amount of revenue received by the Board, and the sources from whence derived. From these it will be perceived that though the appropriations were made generally for the year 1858, a large amount thereof was expended by the late Board, whose term of office expired on the fifth day of July, and for debts contracted by them, but paid by the present Board. The amounts expended and contracted for by each respective Board are separated and set out in such manner, that at a glance they may be seen, and properly charged.

Owing to the prevalence of much malignant sickness in many of the Southern and West Indian ports, in daily water intercourse with this port, it became necessary, for the better protection of the health of this city, to extend Quarantine for a longer period than required by law, to wit: the first day of October,—due notice of which was officially given through the public press; but fortunately the advancement of cold weather at that time rendered it unnecessary to continue longer than the fifteenth of said month. This extension, however, was attended with additional expense beyond that estimated in the beginning of the year.

The number of vessels visited at the Lazaretto station during the quarantine season was

Three hundred and eighty-one,	-	-	-	381
Of which there were Ships,	-	-	-	38
Barques,	-	-	-	85
Brigs,	-	-	-	96
Schooners,	-	-	-	162

and one barge from the New York Quarantine via the Delaware and Raritan canal. 227 of the same were from foreign ports, and 154 were from domestic ports. 87 were detained for purification and ventilation, prior to being permitted to come up to the city; and of this number, 22 were obliged to discharge their cargoes at the station, which were subsequently transported in lighters to the city.

961 foreign passengers arrived in vessels, and were treated according to law during quarantine season, and 2,222 during the whole year. The number of vessels thus visited and treated was much larger than have ever been detained at the Lazaretto.

44 patients were treated at the Lazaretto hospital, of whom, 39 under the successful attention of Dr. Filbert, the Lazaretto physician, entirely recovered, and 5 died.

Owing to the want of proper accommodation for storing goods taken from vessels arriving from domestic ports, the Board was obliged to obtain the use of the U. S. government warehouse adjoining the Lazaretto property, which was kindly granted by J. B. Baker, Esq., collector of the port. Inasmuch as this warehouse is used by the U. S. Government for the storing of foreign merchandise, subject to revenue duties, and the experience of the past season has proved that it may be so occupied in future as to prevent the storing of domestic goods, subject to quarantine, the Board would recommend that Councils would make some arrangement with the General Government for the erection of sheds on the U. S. wharf at the Lazaretto, more particularly for the protection of heavy goods, such as cotton, &c, arriving in coastwise vessels, and which may be there detained for a few days only.

Notwithstanding the inconvenience and expense incident to the

detention of vessels, at quarantine, the Board are pleased to find that their operations and duties at the station have been conducted in such a manner as have proved satisfactory to the merchants of the port, and that there have been but few, if any complaints, made by those interested in either vessels or cargoes.

Upon coming into office in July, the present Board found that the buildings and grounds at the Lazaretto were very much out of repair, there having been but little money expended thereon since consolidation, and with the approval of Councils, through the Committee on Health, an appropriation was made for this purpose,—a large portion of which remaining unexpended at the close of the year, has merged, according to law. There still remain many repairs to be completed. What money has been expended was done in a judicious manner, and only in such cases as were actually required to prevent the property from going to destruction.

The Board would again call the attention of Councils to the necessity of insurance on the buildings at the Lazaretto, if not already done, inasmuch as the "Philadelphia Insurance Company," in which they were insured, has failed and gone into liquidation.

By an ordinance of Councils approved September 25, 1858, the Commissioner of City Property was directed to sell the buildings of the old city hospital at the south-west corner of Nineteenth and Coates streets, which action rendered it necessary for the Board to provide other accommodations. With the approval of the Committee on Health of Councils, they have leased, at a yearly rental of six hundred and fifty dollars, the buildings and grounds on Islington lane, belonging to Fleming's estate, for two years, with the privilege of five; and with an appropriation made by Councils for that purpose, they have fitted up the same in a suitable manner, and in so doing care and economy has been observed. For the particulars of these expenditures your honor's attention is called to the accompanying documents. A large unexpended portion of this appropriation also merged, with other balances, at the close of the year, and as there still remains much unfinished work both at the Hospital and the Lazaretto, the Board have asked further appropriations for these purposes.

This change of the location of the City Hospital, though attended with considerable necessary expense, will eventually be of much advantage to the finances of the city, thereby saving the difference between the rental of the property on Islington lane, and the revenue derivable from the lots vacated and formerly occupied by the city hospital.

A general statement of the number of deaths during the year 1858, is also annexed. Owing to the neglect of others than the members and officers of the present Board, the annual register of deaths, as required by law, has not been made up. In due course of time, the Board expect that this omission will be supplied, and that this interesting and beneficial statement of this branch of the Department will be properly continued.

The Board regret that the proper registry of births for 1855, '56, and '57, as required by an Act of Assembly of March 27th, 1819, has also, for the same reason, been neglected. This is partially occasioned by the neglect of those practising midwifery in not reporting to the officers of the Department. The present Board have taken up the subject, and expect in a few weeks to furnish to Councils and the public the requisite statement of births during the year 1858.

A report of the vaccinations made to this department for three-quarters of the year, ending October 28th, by the "Vaccine Physicians" for the year 1858, elected by Councils in January, is also hereunto annexed. Owing to a want of the proper knowledge of their duties, which requires them to make quarterly reports to this board "of a list, alphabetically arranged, of the names, ages, residences, and occupations of those persons successfully vaccinated by them," such reports were not made and furnished until the months of November and December, and then not so particularly as required by the ordinance of March, 1855, but still in a manner, which under the circumstances, was satisfactory to the Board. Upon the filing of these reports certificates to that effect were furnished to the physicians, upon presentation of which to your honor, warrants for their pay were drawn by you in conformity with the provisions of said ordinance. The annual amount of their salaries is \$1,200, which

sum this Board think might be saved to the city by imposing the duty of gratuitous vaccination upon the out-door physicians elected by the Guardians of the Poor, some of whom, for a part of the year at least, have been acting in both capacities, and receiving double pay.

The Board would call the attention of Councils to the filthy condition of the public docks, and sewers emptying therein. From the report of our Sanitary Committee, and the experience of past years, they feel satisfied that nearly all of the sporadic cases of yellow fever reported during the summer months originate from these sources, and they would earnestly urge their cleansing at an early period, at a time when the commerce of the port could not be interfered with, and no sickness arise therefrom.

The necessity of an early appropriation for the expenses of this Department is strongly urged by the Board, more particularly so, as the law forbids any contracts being made or supplies furnished, unless provision therefor has been made by Councils. When the present Board came into office they found but small appropriations had been made to the department for 1858, and that the larger portions thereof had been restricted to special purposes and for particular periods. No provision had been made for the board and attention of patients in either of the hospitals, and this too in the midst of quarantine season, with an unusual number of vessels arriving for treatment at the Lazaretto, and when great fears were entertained lest the yellow fever might be introduced into the city thereby. Councils had then adjourned for the summer vacation, and no appropriation could be made until their meeting in August. Impressed with the necessity and importance of the prompt performance of the duties imposed upon them, and the emergency of the case, many of the members of the Committees pledged themselves personally responsible for the payment of the bills contracted by the Board for the wants of the department until the action of Councils, and it was not until the 25th day of September, nearly three months afterwards, that any appropriation was made, since which time all the bills contracted have been promptly paid.

Returning heartfelt gratitude in common with our fellow citizens to

the Almighty Dispenser of all good and perfect gifts, for his kindness and care in preserving our beautiful city from the pestilence and disease which have ravaged some of our sister cities during the past summer, they close this report by stating that the utmost care and economy has been observed in all their expenditures, and a rigid scrutiny given in reference to all the finances and revenues of the Board; and they therefore trust that the operations of the Board will prove satisfactory to the Councils and the community over which you have the honor to preside.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT LINDSAY,

President of the Board of Health.

WASHINGTON L. BLADEN,
Clerk.

Statement of Deaths, 1858.

Months.		Males.	Females.	Total.
January,	- - - - -	392	330	722
February,	- - - - -	387	359	746
March,	- - - - -	526	467	993
April,	- - - - -	437	371	808
May,	- - - - -	390	342	722
June,	- - - - -	580	464	1,044
July,	- - - - -	708	602	1,310
August,	- - - - -	632	567	1,999
September,	- - - - -	566	459	1,025
October,	- - - - -	303	299	602
November,	- - - - -	327	297	624
December,	- - - - -	468	421	889
		5,716	4,978	10,694

With a population of 600,000, the above shows about one death to every 56.

Compared with 1857, there has been a falling off of 201, or nearly two per cent. in the aggregate.

Certified from the record of the Board of Health.

WASH. L. BLADEN,
Clerk.

Reports of Vaccine Physicians appointed by Councils January 23rd, 1858.

Ward.	Name of Physician.	Date of Report.	Cases. No.	Date of Report.	Cases. No.	Date of Report.	Cases. No.	Total
1st	W. C. Todd.....	Apr. 28, '58	13	July 28, '58	19	Oct. 28, '58	9	41
2d	P. Heany.....	" "	7	" "	7	" "	0	14
3d	John Gheghan....	" "	0	" "	0	" "	0	00
4th	W. F. Patterson...	No report.		No report.		No report.		00
5th	B. McNeel.....	No report.		No report.		No report.		00
6th	A. C. Bournonville	Apr. 28, '58	3	July 28, '58	5	Oct. 38, '58	1	9
7th	M. W. Collet.....	" "	10	" "	9	" "	8	27
8th	R. P. Harris.....	" "	6	" "	0	" "	0	6
9th	A. Owen Stille....	" "	0	" "	0	" "	0	0
10th	R. M. Downes.....	" "	2	" "	0	" "	1	3
11th	J. L. Rihl.....	" "	10	" "	6	" "	2	18
12th	Jas. McFadden....	No report.		No report.		No report.		00
13th	J. Rheim.....	Apr. 28, '58	0	July 28, '58	0	Oct. 28, '58	75	75
14th	B. Fisher.....	No report.		No report.		No report.		00
15th	D. W. B. Small....	Apr. 28, '58	50	July 28, '58	8	Oct. 28, '58	4	62
16th	W. N. Hanley.....	" "	10	" "	25	" "	5	40
17th	W. O. Kline..	" "	30	" "	23	" "	30	83
18th	Chas. Cady.....	" "	8	" "	0	" "	12	15
19th	S. W. Langdon....	" "	8	" "	20	" "	5	28
20th	J. G. Stetler.....	" "	0	" "	17	" "	4	21
21st	John Conry.....	" "	7	" "	4	" "	14	25
22d	W. N. Squire.....	" "	5	" "	0	" "	0	5
23d	R. Burns.....	No report.		No report.		No report.		0
24th	J. E. Whiteside....	Apr. 28, '58	11	July 28, '58	0	Oct. 28, '58	9	20
			170				143	179 492

Certified from the Records of the Board of Health,

WASH. L. BLADEN, *Clerk.*

HEALTH OFFICE, Philadelphia, Jan. 1, 1859.

To the President and Members of the Board of Health,

GENTLEMEN:—The following items are the receipts of the office from January 1st, 1858, to January 1st, 1859. The total amount is 9,882 dollars 16 cents, which has been paid to W. V. McGrath, Esq., City Treasurer, viz:

Fees on vessels from foreign ports.....	\$3,520 00
Fees on Coasting vessels.....	410 00
Examination of passengers.....	1,096 00
Re-payment of costs for the removal of nuisances.....	€53 42
Permits for burials, privies, &c.....	2,492 50
Board of patients at the hospitals.....	365 34
Outside channel fee at Lazaretto.....	445 00
Licenses to clean privy wells.....	900 00

Total.....\$9,882 16

Amount liened.....\$1,821 96

Amounts to be liened..... 406 45

\$2,228 41

Yours respectfully,

ARTHUR HUGHES, *Health Officer.*

Recapitulation.

Amount cash received.....\$9,882 16

Amount liened and subject to lien, and chargeable to City Solicitor..... 2,228 41

Total.....\$12,110 57

An Appropriation to pay Six Months Salary of the Officers of the Board of Health, 1858, approved March 15th, 1858. \$7,452 50.

Item.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE APPROPRIATED.	Amounts of Appropriation.	Amounts Expended.	Amount Transferred.	Balance.
1	Salary of Health Officer.....	600 00	\$600 00	.....	.....
2	" Clerk.....	600 00	600 00	.....	.....
3	" Assistant Clerk.....	300 00	300 00	.....	.....
4	" Chief Messenger.....	270 00	180 00	.....	\$90 00
5	" 4 Assistant Messengers.....	1,080 00	720 00	.....	360 00
6	" Port Physician.....	400 00	399 97	.....	3
7	" Runner.....	180 00	120 00	.....	60 00
8	" 6 Bargemen.....	630 00	630 00	.....	.....
9	" Lazaretto Physician.....	750 00	750 00	.....	.....
10	" Quarantine Master.....	500 00	499 98	.....	2
11	" Steward and Gardener.....	487 50	487 50	.....	.....
12	" Two Nurses.....	150 00	73 85	\$76 15	.....
13	" Seven Bargemen.....	525 00	504 00	.....	21 00
14	" Two Inspectors.....	160 00	80 00	.....	80 00
15	" Matron C. Hospital.....	200 00	200 00	.....	.....
16	" Three Nurses C. Hospital.....	250 00	249 38	.....	62
17	" Watchman ".....	120 00	60 00	.....	60 00
18	" Physician ".....	250 00	249 96	.....	4
		\$7,452 50	\$6,704 64	\$76 15	\$671 71
					76 15
					6,704 64
					<u>\$7,452 50</u>
1859. Jan. 1, Amount unexpended.....		\$671 71			

RECAPITULATION.

Amount of Appropriation.....	\$7,452 50
Amount Expended prior to July 5, 1858,.....	\$6,704 64
" Transferred to appropriation Sept. 25, 1858,.....	76 15
" Balance, unexpended,.....	671 71
	<u>\$7,452 50</u>

Owing to a want of appropriation, some of the officers of the late Board sued, and obtained judgment and issued a mandamus execution against the City for salaries due for January and February. This will account for the largeness of the above balance.

An Appropriation to pay certain Vaccine Physicians, &c., approved February 23, 1858.

Item.		Appropriation.	Expended.
7.	J. S. Helfrich, Vaccine Physician, 1856,.....	\$25 00	\$25 00
8.	O. A. Stille, " ".....	12 50	12 50
9.	H. St. C. Asch, " ".....	20 80	20 80
10.	H. C. Poust, " ".....	37 50	37 50
11.	J. D. Ward, " Wood. C. H. 12 00	12 00	12 00
		<u>\$107 80</u>	<u>\$107 80</u>

An Appropriation to the Board of Health for the Expenses of the Health Office and Lazaretto for the year 1858. Approved April 29th, 1858. \$5,320.

Item.	For what purpose appropriated.	Amount of appropriation.	Amount paid prior to July 5, 1858.	Amount contracted prior to and paid after July 5, '58.	Amount contracted and paid subsequent to July 5, '58.	Am't transferred by resolutions of Councils.	Balance.
1	Repairs to wharf, Lazaretto.....	\$200 00		\$150 00	\$37 99		\$12 01
2	Repairs to quarantine master's house	200 00	\$35 00				165 00
3	New roof to physician's house.....	300 00	300 00				
4	Cordage, permits, &c., Lazaretto.....	250 00	228 65				21 35
5	Burning fluid, Lazaretto.....	25 00	24 90				10
6	Small boat, Lazaretto.....	85 00			35 00		
7	Medicines and instruments.....	175 00	170 86		4 14		
8	Straw for bedding, Lazaretto.....	25 00		24 00			1 00
9	Gas for City office.....	25 00	5 18				19 82
10	Filling Ice-house, Lazaretto.....	75 00	60 00	15 00			
11	Repairs to boat-house, Lazaretto.....	35 00	35 00				
12	Repairs to hospital, Lazaretto.....	200 00		10 00	69 78		129 22
13	Cleaning and repairing well, Lazaretto.....	30 00			5 50		24 50
14	Two flags, Lazaretto.....	50 00	35 25				14 65
15	Cap for flag-staff, Lazaretto.....	30 00					30 00
16	Carpet for spare room, Lazaretto.....	50 00	49 05				95
17	Taxes, Lazaretto.....	100 00		96 18			3 82
18	Printing and publishing.....	150 00	147 75		30		1 95
19	Stationery and blanks.....	200 00	187 25	12 85			
20	Taxes, fuel, gas repairs, and water rent, Health Office.....	200 00	19 46	19 06			161 54
21	Office furniture, postages, repairs, cleaning and incidentals.....	250 00	235 78	4 50	7 75		1 97
22	Removal of nuisances.....	2,000 00	1,061 19		688 48		250 33
23	Water coolers and ice.....	40 00	7 50	11 08	21 42		
24	Carrying infected vessels back to quarantine, if required, during the year.....	500 00				\$500 00	
25	Carrying Lazaretto mail.....	175 00		35 00	122 50		17 50
		\$5,320 00	\$2,602 82	\$377 51	\$992 86	\$500 00	\$846 81
							500 00
							992 86
							377 51
							2,602 82
		\$5,320 00					\$5,320 00

1859, January 1. Amount unexpended, \$846 81.

RECAPITULATION.

Amount of appropriation.....	\$5,320 00	
Amount expended prior to July 5, 1858.....		\$2,602 82
Amount contracted prior to July 5, 1858 and paid for subsequently...		377 51
Amount contracted and expended since July 5, 1858.....		992 86
Amount transferred by Councils to appropriation Sept. 25th, 1858.....		500 00
Amount of balance unexpended.....		846 81
	\$5,320 00	\$5,320 00

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.

	Amount of appropriation.	Contracted in 1857.
To pay claim of Lane Schofield, for filling up certain lots on Stiles and Cabot streets, approved Oct. 22, 1858.....	\$312 25	\$312 25
To pay claim of J. Altamont Phillips, for compiling digest.....	200 00	200 00
To pay claim of Coissy & Markley, for printing and binding digest, approved November 1, 1858.....	253 00	253 00
To pay salaries of vaccine physicians elected by Councils in January, 1858, (warrants to be drawn by the Mayor,).....	1,200 00	1,200 00

An appropriation to the Board of Health, for the Expenses of that Department for the year 1858. Approved September 25, 1858. \$20,366 50.

Item.	For what purposes appropriated.	Amount of Appropriation.	Amount con- tracted prior to and paid since July 5, 1858.	Amount con- tracted and p'd since July 5, 1858.	Amount transferred by Councils.	Balance.
1	Salary of Lazaretto Physician, 6 mos.	\$750 00	.....	\$750 00		
2	Salary of Quarantine Master, 6 mos.	500 00	.....	500 00		
3	Salary of Steward and Gardener, 6 mos.	487 50	.....	487 50		
4	Salary of two Nurses.....	150 00	.....			
	Transfer, November 30, 1858....	76 15	.....	213 58	.....	\$12 57
5	Salary of seven Bargemen, 6 mos.	1,080 00	.....			
	Transfer, November 20, 1858....	114 52	.....	1,184 52	.....	10 00
6	Salary of Chief Clerk, 6 mos.	600 00	.....	600 00		
7	Salary of Assistant Clerk, 6 mos.	300 00	.....	300 00		
8	Salary of Health Officer, 6 mos.	600 00	.....	600 00		
9	Salary of Port Physician, 6 mos.	400 00	.....	400 00		
10	Salary of Chief Mes-senger, 6 mos.	270 00	.....	270 00		
11	Salary of four Assistant Messengers, 6 mos.	1,080 00	.....	1,080 00		
12	Salary of Runner, 6 mo.	180 00	.....	180 00		
13	Salary of two Inspectors of Vessels, 6 mos.	280 00	\$10 00	270 00		
14	Salary of Physician, City Hospital, 6 mos.	250 00	.....	250 00		
15	Salary of Matron, City Hospital, 6 mos.	200 00	.....	200 00		
16	Salary of three Nurses, City Hospital, 6 mos.	250 00	.....	198 82	.....	51 18
17	Salary of Watchman, City Hospital, 6 mos.	120 00	.....	60 00	.....	60 00
18	Salary of Laundress, City Hospital, 6 mos.	78 00	85	.....	.....	77 15
19	Salary of Nurse, City Hospital, June, 1858.	12 00	12 00			
20	Clothing, bedding, straw, brushes, soap, furniture and incidentals, "Lazaretto"	1,500 00	.....	.....	*\$300 00	
	Transfer, November 20, 1858....	315 48	46 66	683 39	*400 00	385 00
21	Medicines and instruments, lime, &c	100 00	.....	56 00	.....	44 00
22	Coffins, "Lazaretto".....	100 00	.....	.....	.....	100 00
23	Coal, wood and fluid, "Lazaretto"...	150 00	46 00	16 33	.....	87 67
24	Carriages, railroad tickets, &c., Laza- retto Committee.....	150 00	51 00	95 00	.....	4 00
25	Horse keep at Lazaretto.....	175 00	.....	6 50	.....	168 50
26	Board of bargemen, &c., &c., at La- zaretto	1,000 00	289 55	531 68	.....	178 87
27	Outside channel visits, Lazaretto....	200 00	87 00			
	Transfer, November 20, 1858....	170 00		183 00		
28	General repairs at Lazaretto.....	1,000 00				
	Transfer, December 29, 1858....	*400 00	36 14	644 79	*600 00	119 07
29	Small boat for Quarantine Master...	40 00		40 00		
30	Carriages and tickets for Poudrette Committee.....	100 00	29 00	27 00		44 00
31	Carriages and tickets for District Committee.....	200 00	46 00	22 00	.....	132 00
32	Taxes, fuel, gas, repairs, &c., Health Office	100 00	5 00	73 32	.....	21 68
33	Printing and publishing, Health Of- fice	250 00	54 00	193 90	.....	2 10
34	Stationery and blanks, Health Office	200 00	50 57	47 90	.....	1 53
35	Furniture postages, and incidentals, Health Office.....	150 00	5 01	25 41	.....	119 58
36	Removal of Nuisances.....	3,500 00	.....	1,101 68	*1,500 00	898 32
Amounts carried forward.....		\$13,550 65	\$768 78	\$11,172 22	\$2,800 00	\$2,516 62

Item.	For what purposes appropriated.	Amount of Appropriation.	Amount contracted prior to and paid since July 5, 1858.	Amount contracted and paid since July 5, 1858.	Amount transferred by Councils.	Balance.
	Amounts brought forward.....	\$13,560 65	\$768 78	\$11,172 22	\$2,800 00	\$2,516 62
37	Carriages and tickets for Burial Ground Committee.....	50 00	.....	15 00	*35 00	
38	Committee on Bills of Mortality.....	100 00	.....	.....	*100 00	
39	Committee on Library.....	50 00	.....	25 00	.....	25 00
40	Board of watchmen, nurses, &c., City Hospital	714 00	273 28	181 38	.....	259 34
41	Board of patients, City Hospital.....	800 00	122 07	19 99	*200 00	457 94
42	Coffins and digging graves, City Hospital	150 00	.....	.....	*100 00	150 00
43	Bedsteads and other furniture, City Hospital	50 00	.....	.....	.....	50 00
44	Horse and wagon keep and repairs, City Hospital.....	275 00	60 20	123 77	.....	91 03
45	Coal, wood, and portorage, City Hospital	300 00	68 75	41 25	*100 00	90 00
46	Bedding and clothing, City Hospital	200 00	.....	.....	.....	200 00
47	Ice, City Hospital.....	75 00	14 00	23 80	.....	37 20
48	Incidental repairs, &c., &c., &c., City Hospital	150 00	.....	7 00	*143 00	
49	Carriages and tickets for Sanitary Committee	250 00	43 00	69 00	*100 00	38 00
50	Extraordinary expenses, &c., Sanitary Committee.....	250 00	.....	123 50	*100 00	26 50
51	Soap, starch, fluid, oil, &c., &c., City Hospital	200 00	45 23	54 16	*100 00	61
52	Medicines, leeching and lime, City Hospital	150 00	.....	2 13	*100 00	47 87
53	Brandy, wine, porter and ale, City Hospital	100 00	.....	.....	*50 00	50 00
54	Good will, rent, repairs, &c., City Hospital, as provided for by City Councils—and approved; made up by transfer of amounts from Items 20, 27, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53.....	*3,528 00	.....	2,509 36	.....	1,018 64
		\$20,942 65	\$1,395 31	\$14,487 56	*\$3,928 00	\$5,059 78
						14,487 56
						1,395 31
		\$20,942 65				\$20,942 65
	1859, Jan. 1, Amount unexpended.	\$5,059 78				

* These figures represent transfers of one and the same appropriation from one item to another, and are included in original appropriations.

† Transferred from Appropriation March 15th.

‡ Transferred from Appropriation April 29th.

RECAPITULATION.

Amount of appropriation.....	\$20,366 50
Amount transferred November 20, 1858.....	576 15
Amount contracted prior to and paid subsequent to July 5, 1858.....	\$1,395 31
Amount contracted and paid since July 5, 1858.....	14,487 56
Balance unexpended.....	5,059 78
	<u>\$20,942 65</u>
	<u>\$20,942 65</u>

SUMMARY OF ALL APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1858.

For what purposes appropriated.	Amount of Appropriation.	Amount contracted prior to and paid since July 5, 1858.	Amount contracted and p'd since July 5, 1858.	Amount transferred by Councils.	Balance.
Approved February 23, 1858.....	\$107 80	\$107 80			
Approved April 29, 1858.....	5,320 00	377 51	992 86	500 00	846 81
Approved March 15, 1858.....	7,452 50	2,102 82			
Approved September 25, 1858.....	20,366 50	6,704 64		76 15	671 71
Transfer of November 20, 1858.....	76 15	1,395 31	14,487 56		5,059 78
Transfer of November 20, 1858.....	500 00				
Approved October 29, 1858.....	312 25	312 25			
Approved November 1, 1858.....	453 00	453 00			
Approved, Vaccine Physicians, and chargeable to the mayor	1,200 00				1,200 00
Amounts of appropriations.....	\$35,788 20	\$11,953 33	\$15,480 42	\$576 15	\$7,778 30
Amounts expended by and on account old Board.....		11,958 33			
Amounts expended by present Board.....		15,480 42			
Amounts of balance unexpended.....		7,778 30	and merged Dec. 31, 1858.		
Amounts transferred.....		576 15			
	\$35 788 20	\$35,788 20			

E. E.

WASHINGTON L. BLADEN, *Clerk.*

DEPARTMENT OF POOR.

DEPARTMENT OF POOR,
Philadelphia, January 1st, 1859.

TO HON. ALEX. HENRY,

Mayor of Philadelphia,

SIR:—Your favor, requesting a general statement of the condition of this department, has been duly received, and in reply thereto I respectfully submit for your consideration the following report.

The appropriations made for the year 1858 were as follows:

By an ordinance, (approved January 27, 1858,) for the expenses of the year,	-	-	-	\$197,637 00
By an ordinance (approved October 27,) for the balance of the year,	-	-	-	46,655 00
				<u>\$244,292 00</u>
Amount of warrants drawn on account thereof,	-			236,011 31
				<u>Balance unexpended, - - - \$8,280 69</u>

By an ordinance approved December 16, 1858, to pay bills principally contracted previous to July, 1858, - - - - -	\$7,206 96
Amount of warrants drawn on account thereof, -	7,128 68
Balance unexpended, - - - - -	\$78 28

In addition to the above, there was appropriated by an ordinance, approved April 30th, to meet the deficiency of the previous year, - - -	\$16,635 60
Amount of warrants drawn on account thereof, -	\$16,514 34
	\$121 26

The financial troubles of the winter of 1857-8, showed themselves in their effects, by the increase during the year in the number of applicants for relief, an increase which would have been much greater, but that the numerous benevolent associations at that time organized, contributed considerably to the assistance demanded.

The average amount paid for out-door relief is about fifty cents per week to each person, and this sum suffices to keep the recipients from becoming inmates of the alms-house, at a cost to the city of from \$1 25 to \$1 50 per week each ; yet, notwithstanding the evident reduction of our expenditures to be gained by a judicious application of this system of out-door relief, the smallness of appropriations for the purpose soon leaves us without means, and forces us to suspend, in a great measure, all assistance of this kind.

At this time, when economy in the conduct of all the departments is an object which, as it should be, is kept constantly in view, it may be well to say a few words upon the importance of an early passage of appropriation bills.

Whether these bills are passed or not, the expenses of the alms-house in a great measure still go on, and it is found to be utterly impossible to purchase any goods, required for the use of the institution, at wholesale cash prices, when there are great doubts of the ability of the department to pay for them for months afterward.

Not only this, but by a strict construction of the act of Assembly of April 25th, 1858, the Board of Guardians can make no purchases whatever, unless appropriations have been previously passed by Councils to pay for the same. Yet, the effect of stopping supplies would be to throw upon the community the three thousand paupers resident in the alms-house, many of these sick or aged, and all of them destitute. Such a terrible alternative cannot for a moment be regarded, and but one thing remains to be done. Provisions are purchased to feed them, clothing is procured to cover them, medicine is obtained to relieve them, and in all cases where we have not the means at our disposal, these must be had upon credit, the sellers running the risk of the passage of appropriations.

The average monthly population of the alms-house, during 1858, was as follows :

January,	-	-	-	-	-	2,980
February,	-	-	-	-	-	3,128
March,	-	-	-	-	-	2,944
April,	-	-	-	-	-	2,477
May,	-	-	-	-	-	2,268
June,	-	-	-	-	-	2,260
July,	-	-	-	-	-	2,275
August,	-	-	-	-	-	2,316
September,	-	-	-	-	-	2,268
October,	-	-	-	-	-	2,355
November,	-	-	-	-	-	2,616
December,	-	-	-	-	-	2,840

Of these, probably over twelve per cent. are men, stout and able-bodied, who not only could, but most undoubtedly should be made to work for their own support, and for the maintenance of the institution. For the want of proper facilities, but about one hundred can be thus employed, and the remainder live in idleness—an expense to the department, and a disgrace to the system which allows it.

The importance of having a house of correction to meet this evil, has been so frequently urged, that but little need be said here in favor of it. In 1854, a bill was passed in the Legislature of this

State, giving authority to certain commissioners to purchase a suitable lot of ground for the purpose of erecting a building for such use. These commissioners examined various sites, visited different cities, and obtained full information upon the subject, and after giving the matter a careful consideration, published a report of their proceedings, setting forth the probable cost of such a building to be at least \$300,000. By the act above referred to, the limit of expense was fixed at but \$100,000, so all further action in the matter was suspended, and nothing whatever has since been done. It is to be hoped, however, that it will not rest here, but that the evident advantages of a house of correction, both in an economical and a truly benevolent point of view, will carry sufficient weight with them to insure its construction.

In the internal arrangements of the alms-house, the principal change is the substitution of gas for oil, in lighting the building, and the advantages of the new method are already apparent, in the increased cleanliness, comfort, and health of the inmates.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. HUHNS.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY PRISON.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY PRISON,

January 14th, 1859.

To the HON. ALEX. HENRY,

Mayor,

SIR :—I beg leave to make the following statement :

Whole number committed to Philadelphia County Prison during the year 1858,	-	-	-	-	14,913
Convicted to hard labor,	-	-	-	-	339
Last year the total number committed were,	-	-	-	-	15,540
Convicted to hard labor,	-	-	-	-	269
The cost of support of the prisoners for the year 1858, amounted to,	-	-	-	-	\$56,820 42
Last year the cost was,	-	-	-	-	60,075 53

The manufacturing department will net about \$9,000, over and above all expenses.

Permit me to say, that of the 14,913 committed during the year 1858 to the prison, over 9,000 were for disorderly conduct, drunkenness, and vagrancy; another argument in favor of a House of Correction.

Respectfully, yours,

J. K. HOWELL,
Clerk Phila. County Prison.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF SURVEYS,
December 27th, 1858.

TO HIS HONOR, ALEXANDER HENRY,
Mayor of Philadelphia,

DEAR SIR:—I take great pleasure in complying with your note of the 18th inst., asking for a full, accurate, and detailed statement of the general condition of this department for the past year, with the amount of moneys received and disbursed, &c., &c., and beg leave to report, That the appropriations made to this department during the year 1858 have been as follows:

General appropriation of January 11th, 1858,	-	\$29,354 30
Special " of April 28th "	-	84 28
		\$29,438 58
Of this has been expended, as will be shown in detail by the statement of the City Controller,	-	\$24,517 34
Leaving balance unexpended, Jan'y 1, 1859,	-	\$4,921 24

The preparation of sectional plans of our city plat has been conducted with energy by the Surveyors and Regulators in their respec-

tive districts; the following being a list of those which have been placed on record in this office during the past year, viz :

2d section of Chestnut Hill—lineal survey.

8th	"	Blockley	"	"	
6th	"	"	"	"	Approved May 3, 1858.
7th	"	"	"	"	Examined by Board.
2d	"	Germantown, grades and survey			Approved Nov. 15, '58.
5th	"	21st ward	"	"	May 3, 1858.
6th	"	Germantown	"	"	"
4th	"	21st ward,	"		Examined by the Board.
2d	"	Frankford	"		Approved Nov. 1, 1858.
3d	"	"	"	"	"
4th	"	"	"	"	"
		White Hall	"	"	"
1st	"	23d ward,	"		Examined by the Board.
2d	"	"	"		
3d	"	"	"		
4th	"	"	"		
5th	"	"	"		Examined by the Board.
6th	"	"	"		
3d	"	Chestnut Hill, lineal survey.			
6th	"	21st ward, south of Erie avenue, grades.			
4th	"	Blockley,	-	-	"
	"	Between Susquehanna and City avenues and Forty-second and Fifty-first streets.			
10th	"	Blockley, lineal survey.			

The amount of work thus returned by the Surveyors may be estimated, when I state that it covers an area of 7,000 acres, with 250 miles of streets, extending beyond the built-up portions of our city.

In the most of the survey districts, the plans on file and now under course of preparation, when completed, will extend nearly to the limits that may be considered necessary for many years, for all city purposes, and will guard us from the necessity of arranging our plans to suit artificial circumstances, to avoid excessive damages, rather than adopt what a judicious adaptation of the natural topogra-

phy would suggest; so soon as this point is reached, the expenses of this department will be reduced to its minimum of salaries only.

During the past year the out-door business of the department has been more than usually called into requisition in matters of engineering; we have built a number of small bridges of different character, from the stone arch to the simple girder truss, besides work for completion of structures unfinished when the city was consolidated, and repairs necessary from ordinary wear and tear, as well as from imperfect workmanship at erection, but will only allude to two.

At the bridge on Gunners Run canal at York street, we have replaced one abutment, dilapidated from bad foundation, and the other must be taken down and rebuilt so soon as spring opens.

At the Girard avenue bridge we have completed the very heavy retaining walls necessary for the filling and use of the approaches. This has been a work of greater magnitude than was originally anticipated, owing to the difficulty of finding suitable material upon which to base a wall of such dimensions, and at the same time preserve as much of the old wing-wall as possible; it has been attended with imminent peril, but I am happy in being able to report that no loss of life or injury of any kind has resulted therefrom. It would have been judicious and economical, on the part of the city, had we been authorized at the same time to repair the imperfect abutment at the western end of that bridge, as the foundation must be very defective, and if on rock, as is asserted, must be so shelving as to furnish but a poor ground work for the superincumbent weight of masonry. This is shown by the opening of the joints on the northern corner, and which, I fear, will ere long render it imperative to have recourse to heavy expenditure for renewal, and even now must be sustained by shoring to preserve it, and prevent the consequent destruction of at least one span of the superstructure, should the abutment fall.

The superstructure of this bridge was erected in the year 1853, prior to consolidation, and was not used for travel, other than foot passengers, until the winter of 1857, when the retaining walls on the eastern side were completed; though the western approach was yet incomplete, sufficient width of roadway was open to permit safe

travel. Shortly after my assuming the duties entrusted to me by the city, I observed evidences of weakness in the structure, not from decay alone; and at the completion of the eastern approach made a written protest against throwing it open for public use. But it was unheeded, until the evidences noticed and reported were, during the past autumn, rendered apparent to all by the arches of the eastern shore span breaking between the skewback and lower chord. Orders were at once issued by the highway department for their repair, and in doing so every weak joint has been strengthened, and the entire bridge has been adjusted to its lines, both horizontal and vertical. We therefore now present it to the public as a safe and secure structure. Much might be said in reference to the bridge, as to its injudicious location and consequent extra cost, but as it was before the time of our responsibility, it would be of no particular advantage. This bridge yet requires a suitable flooring, when a highway will be thrown into public use that has long been required for the north-western section of our city.

I am also gratified, sir, in reporting to you that the four principal lines of culverts, memorials for which have poured into the chambers of Councils for several years past, have now been allotted to responsible parties to construct, under such specifications and details of contract as will secure to the city the best character of work. These works, sir, I consider the most important of any that have been undertaken by our city for many years. Their results will not only be for the individual comfort of those residing upon the immediate lines thereof, who have been incommoded by the periodical freshets which have, in many instances, caused great loss of property, but will extend through our city, in reducing the liability of disease generated by the present state of the locality and the extension of epidemics for which the character of the atmosphere, particularly upon and contiguous to the line of the Cohocksink, is well fitted; for this, the construction of the Cohocksink line of culvert has been long required, as a reference to the statistics of the last cholera visitation will prove. The Vine street culvert will improve the character of property upon its line, and add to the city revenue, from increased assessment, sufficient to return to the city at an early day, the expenditure now authorized. The same result will follow the

construction of the Moore street culvert, but to a greater extent, as in that case the want of proper drainage facilities has prevented the use of much vacant ground, which will now be at once covered with buildings, returning its due quota to the city treasury.

The northwestern culvert is by no means of the least importance in the list, as by its construction on the line proposed we preserve the Schuylkill water from the deteriorating drainage flowing from a large manufacturing district on the eastern side of the river, and it would be greatly to the interest of our community could an ordinance be issued to prevent the location of any stable, slaughter-house or manufactory, in such position that the refuse therefrom would flow into the water liable to be pumped out for city consumption. Such Act of Assembly exists, though reaching only to the south side of Francis's lane, now Coates street, but should be extended up the river, and so framed as to guard each of the reservoirs for water distribution now located on its margin.

Another system of drainage, to which the attention of this department has been called, but upon which I am not now prepared to present you a specific opinion as a result of minute examination, is that due to the area lying west and north of the Fairmount dam, in the Twenty-fourth Ward; as yet, much of the obnoxious matter is absorbed before it reaches the dam, as it passes mostly through an open and unimproved section; but judging from the advance of improvement in that ward, the day is not far distant when the drainage from that area will exceed in objectionable qualities that presumed now to flow from the eastern side.

It is a matter of congratulation that the subject of drainage has received so much consideration from the City Councils, as shown by the appropriation of \$200,000 for the works under contract, and the enactment of the ordinance authorizing the construction of branch culverts or drains. The Board of Surveyers have already acted upon a number of applications which are now open for contract, and will be built without entailing any expenditure upon the city other than for intersections, and will greatly improve our street surface by enabling us to introduce a larger number of inlets, thus preventing the long surface flow which is so objectionable, and will also give opportunity to correct a very great evil in the form of cross gutters

at street intersections. In all our new grade regulations we endeavor, so far as practicable, to avoid them, but of course the introduction of the branch culvert system is the only efficacious mode by which they can be prevented; many of those which now exist, and which are not liable to be avoided at an early date by a branch culvert, should be remedied by the adoption of cast-iron box gutters, extending across the carriage-way and foot-way, the expense of which would be returned to the community in the saving of time and a reduction in the wear and tear of vehicles. Those that have been introduced by the passenger railway companies constructed on Race and Vine streets, meet the ends desired, but can be improved by being extended so as to close the gap now left at the curb.

The ordinance relative to branch culverts alluded to is of great importance in securing more thorough drainage, yet great responsibility rests with the Board of Surveyors in granting these permits to avoid imposition upon a number for the benefit of a few, and it requires further guards for the protection of individuals, who from the necessity of their location or business are required to construct a branch culvert at their own expense; such persons should be protected from the indiscriminate use of such drain by neighbors who may have declined contributing only on account of the urgency of the case assuring them that it would be constructed by others, when they would be granted a permit from the city at a less cost than the price per foot of construction. This now prevents the extension of a number of branches; the board cannot authorize their construction under the ordinance, because in some instances but *one* owner's name is subscribed to the application, and its usefulness to the city is not such as to warrant its construction unless a majority of owners should request it, while the party applying is unwilling to build at his *own expense* unless he shall have an opportunity of remuneration from those who may afterward desire to connect therewith. For this we shall at an early day present a supplementary ordinance, trusting it may receive consideration from Councils and your approval.

I must again, sir, allude to the necessity of some system being adopted by which the connections made with our culverts for private drainage should be constructed under the immediate control of a

city officer. Such abuse of privilege as is now exercised by individuals will be severely felt hereafter, particularly as they increase in number, which is very rapidly; they oftentimes injure the strength of culvert-arch, and more frequently are arranged with a total disregard to anything beyond their immediate purpose and private ends, while the flow in culvert is seriously affected, and each forms a nucleus for deposit, which must some day be taken out by the city at great cost. In the cities of Europe this is guarded with jealous care, and all connections at the culvert-arch are made by officers especially delegated; nor under the present system has this department any means of knowing where or how such connections are made, and when called upon at any time to correct an existing evil are entirely ignorant of what has been done by the authority of other branches of the city government, while the proper location of such connections, and the effect thereof upon culverts opened, can only be known at this department, where each system of drainage is being minutely examined and recorded. In perhaps most instances, these connections, if properly and scientifically constructed, improve the working of the sewer, but if, as is mostly the case, the pipes are protruded into the area of flow without regard to the necessity of retaining a smooth and regular interior surface, and the debris occasioned by the unworkmanlike manner in which such insertion is performed, is left lying in the sewer, we cannot be surprised if we are at length called upon to cleanse our sewers by manual labor of the deposits thus created. Were it possible, and there is no apparent difficulty, for this department to have recorded all matters connected in any way with culverts, it would result eventually in great benefit to the city, and is particularly necessary now that the system of private drainage is becoming so universal in its application to new improvements.

The work that is now so urgently called for by a large number of our citizens, the bridge over the Schuylkill at Chestnut street, I am happy in being able to report, is now ready in plan for the action of Councils, the Board of Surveyors having given it close scrutiny as presented, and recorded their entire approval. The amount estimated for the construction of this work, seems to astonish those who are not familiar with such structures, and particu-

larly as they have been somewhat misled from the circumstance that \$125,000 was appropriated by the "County Board" for that purpose, prior to consolidation, but forgetting that such was not intended to be the full cost of the structure that would be suitable for a highway for the City of Philadelphia, nor, in fact, do I know of any character of bridge that could be put up at that place for the amount thus specified, as the masonry necessary to the abutments, approaches and pier, would far exceed it in cost, and this cost would vary but little with the plan of superstructure, while the superstructure itself will not reach that amount by a large margin. Some have expressed surprise that a stone bridge was not adopted in preference to all others, and on this point I may say, that with the rise of arches and span which it has been considered expedient to adopt, so as to allow as easy a gradient as possible for the approaches, that a stone bridge is impracticable, and it has not been deemed judicious to interfere more than is absolutely imperative, with the water way of river, by the adoption of two piers, on account of the great liability of seriously affecting the Fairmount works.

During the coming season it will become requisite that a new bridge be constructed at Bridesburg, over the Frankford creek, at the United States Arsenal; that now in use is a sliding draw, and in a very dilapidated condition, entirely unsafe for travel, and is at best but a temporary affair, with trestle piers; the draw is decayed in all its parts, and is sustained by incessant patching, attended with considerable expense. The whole affair should be removed, and a swing draw substituted, with a stone pier and abutment adapted to the purpose. The city owning the property on the south of this location, there can be no objection to the plan proposed, as the privilege to this swinging over the wharf property can be reserved in case of sale.

As all questions of passenger railways must pass the examination of the Board of Surveyors prior to their construction, and the views of the board have differed somewhat from Councils, as regarding the gauge, &c., bringing out a regulating resolution from that body confining us to the first, and mayhap not thoroughly digested plan, I desire to say that the board were desirous of taking advantage of

any improvements that might be suggested, rather than adopt a plan merely because it was then in use; and believe now, that many of the adherents to the present plan clearly see that they would not have been affected, as they surmised, had the board been permitted to exercise some practical judgment in the matter; had the gauge of 4 feet 8½ inches been adopted on some of the roads lately constructed, we would now have had Broad street, with its double track repaired, placed in thorough condition, and fitted for passenger travel, while the character of rail that would have been adopted for the new track, would have had the same and better advantages for ordinary vehicles, as they could have traveled upon it without injury to wheels, which is now unavoidable; this would also have prevented the combined rail on Second and Third streets, with the intricacy of castings in the carriage-way, that are now indispensable.

Although, in the organization of a new city government, much attention and time were given to the arrangement of the relative duties of the many departments composing it, yet we are by no means perfect, and much legislation is wanted before this department can work in such manner as to conform in all points to law. Prior to consolidation each district had laws relating to its surveys and records of property lines, many of which differed in form, some very materially, and although in some instances inoperative, yet for mere points of litigation, could be brought into argument with some force; all these should be adjusted, and a new form legalized, that would be simple and effective, and bearing upon the entire city, place us on sound and good ground for action.

The passage of an ordinance relative to the preparation of liens for unpaid bills due the city, by which the Surveyors and Regulators would be remunerated for the work required, most particularly in obtaining information for the tax liens, is a matter of importance. The property against which the charge may be made is, in almost every instance, so obscurely described upon the bills, that it would be impossible for other than one familiar with the district, or possessed of records of survey, to locate it so that a proper description could be made out; the difficulty in identifying a property may be understood by an extract of bill as usually returned, viz: "J. Jones, a frame house on Fourth street adjoining property owned in 1854,

by J. Smith, 6th ward." And in some instances thus : " W. Smith, lot of ground on the north side of Duke street, 19th ward," in a region, perhaps, where there are no improvements, and the only mode by which any information may be obtained, (unless some starting point may be possessed by the Surveyor from his own records,) is by tracing up the name in the Recorder's office, a work exceedingly tedious, and frequently without any valuable result. The Surveyors and Regulators were not called upon to perform this duty until the ordinance of June 19th, 1857, carrying out the intent of the law, brought the tax bills into the hands of the Solicitor, and thus to this department, for the proper descriptions ; and as we have distributed, since July last, 1400 bills, many of which require several descriptions, (in one case thirteen separate and distinct descriptions for one bill filed,) some idea may be formed of the additional work required, and justice seems to say they should be remunerated, particularly, as in all cases prior to consolidation, the Surveyor invariably received compensation for such duty.

It is also very desirable that an ordinance be framed by which the dedicating of streets to public use may be filed in some one place, and as this department is most frequently, and with propriety, called upon to verify the locality of public streets, they should, after being recorded, be deposited in this office, as custom, and what has been found to be most convenient and proper, has already made a precedent, and is particularly necessary now, as a resolution of Councils, approved November 20th, 1858, requires that the certificate from the Department of Surveys shall be obtained as to the public ownership of a street, prior to the laying of water pipes ; such deeds, and many of value, are scattered through the several offices, notwithstanding we have endeavored to collect and file them for easy reference. If they were, in all cases hereafter, submitted to the Board of Survey for acceptance on the part of the city, and only made public streets subject to that approval, it might be of great advantage to our city plat.

Respectfully submitted,

STRICKLAND KNEASS,

Chief Engineer and Surveyor.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT,
Januury 7th, 1859.

HON. ALEXANDER HENRY,
 Mayor,

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your communication of the 18th ult., it affords me pleasure to submit to you, and through you to the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, a general statement of the affairs of this Department. The Department, as at present organized, consists of one chief commissioner and two commissioners of highways, two clerks, twenty-five supervisors, one superintendent of city railroad, one messenger, and six watchmen of bridges. All the highways, bridges, sewers, city railroad, &c., are under the charge of this Department, except the wire bridge near Fairmount, which is under the control of the Department of City Property. By examining the statements annexed, marked Nos. 1 and 2, you will perceive that the expenditures for the year 1858, exclusive of road damages, amounted to \$441,542 40, of which amount there were warrants drawn amounting to \$213,257 73; bills due and unpaid, contracts made and work commenced by the department to the amount of \$51,984 31; making a total of expenditures up to July 19th, of \$265,242 04, at which time I entered upon the discharge of my duties as head of this Department; all of which is exclusive of the liabilities of the Department for expenses incurred in the paving of intersections, which are governed by the number of streets paved by the owners of property, and altogether beyond control of this Department, and for which there had been contracts sufficient to use the whole amount appropriated for the year's expense for that purpose. I would further say in the matter of expenditures of paving intersections, that it is impossible for the Department to make even

an approximate estimate of the amount required for any year under the present system, as Councils grant the privilege to the owners of property on any street to pave the same whenever a majority of them desire the same done, and I do not see that either Councils or this Department could with propriety interfere to prevent any improvement calculated to advance the character and add to the wealth and prosperity of the City, which improvements of this kind most assuredly do. The estimated receipts of the Department were \$24,550, and it will be seen that they fall short of that amount \$7,882 85. While upon the subject of expenditures and receipts, I feel it to be my duty to inform you that this Department is charged with an amount varying from year to year from \$16,000 to \$20,000, for repairs to the city railroad and for paving over the trenches made by the laying of water pipes through the streets, and by the introduction of water into buildings, when the receipts for toll on the railroad and for paving over the water attachments, amounting to about \$20,000, are received, the one by the superintendent of the city railroad and credited to said road, and the other by the water department and credited as fractional water rents, without giving this Department any credit for the same, which I consider unjust, as every department should be entitled to receive credit for the amount received from its expenditures. As the water department receives the money for paving over attachments, and does not give this Department any credit for the same, I would recommend the passage of an ordinance requiring it to pave over all water pipes, or else to give this Department credit for money expended for such work and materials.

In regard to the cleansing of the City; the paved portion was cleansed under contract up to the 1st of October (except the streets and market houses in the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th Wards,) for the sum of \$55,100, since which time it

has been done by the Department by the day, in accordance with the pro rata contract price. I regret to say that the practical operation of cleansing the streets by contract does not give satisfaction to either the public or this Department, and I would not recommend a continuation of it except upon the score of economy, and from experiments made by my predecessors, and the report of a special committee on streets. The cost of cleansing by the supervisors is from 80 to 100 per cent. more than by contract during the last year (see Appendix to Common Council Journal, from May to November 1856, page 17); and I believe, from information received from reliable sources, that our City is kept as clean as any City in the Union, although, in many cases, their expenditure far exceeds the amount expended by this Department for that purpose. In the month of September last, I sent a communication to Councils, asking further legislation in relation to Passenger Railways, as this Department, comparatively speaking, is powerless under the existing ordinance regulating them; but they have done nothing in the matter, and every day's experience only the more confirms me in my opinion of the necessity of the passage of an ordinance placing summary power in the hands of some officer of the City government. There should also be a general ordinance passed in relation to granting permits for turnouts and sidlings for the different railroad tracks throughout the City, as the existing ordinances upon that subject only apply to the city railroad. I would also call the attention of Councils to the recommendations of my predecessor in relation to the department of surveys, as contained in his communication of January 1st, 1858, (see Appendix to Journal of Common Council, from November 1857 to May 1858, page 512,) regarding the drawing of warrants for payment of work done by the surveyors for the City, as I believe the adoption of the suggestions therein contained would be beneficial to the public and relieve this Department from the

performance of duties more properly belonging to the survey department.

In conformity with the ordinance of Councils of September 1st, 1858, to change the names of certain streets, lanes, courts, &c., and the appropriation of \$3,000 for that purpose, contracts were made, and the work is now done; for taking down the old and putting up the new names for all the wards in the City, except the 24th Ward, for which there were no proposals (and which yet remains to be done), for the sum of \$1,130 64, leaving a balance unexpended of \$1,869 36, which amount I would recommend to be re-appropriated for the purpose of making the changes required in the 24th Ward, and renewing the old names where required throughout the City, as many of them are nearly obliterated and need replacing at this time. I would also recommend the passage of an ordinance affixing a penalty for defacing or taking down any of said signs, or interfering with the agents of the City in putting them up, as in many instances the persons employed for that purpose have been compelled to put them up at the risk of their lives, and when done, the same have been removed in a short time by persons to whom the new names were obnoxious. In relation to Girard Avenue, in the 24th Ward, there were several contracts in existence, made by the County Commissioners on the eve of consolidation, for doing a large amount of grading, graveling, &c., a great deal of which it was deemed unnecessary to have done at this time, and it was thought advisable to have the same canceled, which has been done on terms advantageous to the City. There has been a large expenditure on the repairs to Girard Avenue bridge and wing walls, which were commenced by my predecessor, and the bridge is yet unfinished, but it is in such a state of forwardness that it can be finished early in the spring; I would therefore recommend an appropriation for the purpose of completing the repairs to the bridge, and for finishing the grading of the avenue from the bridge to Bel-

mont Avenue, as in its present condition, notwithstanding the amount already expended, it is of no service to the public, as it cannot be crossed except by foot passengers, and even to them it is dangerous in consequence of portions of the flooring being removed.

All of which is submitted, by

Yours Respectfully,

C. B. ANDRESS,

Chief Commissioner of Highways.

No. 1.

Expenditures of the Highway Department, from January 1st, 1858, to January 1st, 1859.

Paving Intersections,	\$ 53,365 13
Repairing and repaving streets,	133,642 44
Grading streets and roads,	26,686 50
Repairing roads and unpaved streets,	46,312 49
Paving footways,	5,981 20
Repairs to culverts and inlets,	14,272 18
Repairs to bridges,	23,330 59
Cleansing streets and markets,	59,344 87
Cleansing and repairing unpaved streets,	12,963 66
Repairs and labor on City Railroad,	7,252 81
Repairing pumps and wells,	1,591 17
Salaries of commissioners, clerks, &c.,	9,999 24
Salaries to supervisors,	15,560 00
Grading Girard Avenue, 24th Ward,	4,187 82
Building wing wall to Girard Avenue, 24th Ward,	17,091 22
Printing, advertising, and stationery,	1,108 52
Insurance on bridges,	1,100 00
Office and yard expenses,	758 26
Incidentals,	991 47
Sign boards for street names,	1,130 64
Advertising plans for Chestnut Street bridge,	723 00
Repairing permanent bridge and railroad,	4,149 19
	\$441,542 40

Of this amount \$13,365 49 was for deficiencies for the year 1857.

No. 2.

Receipts from January 1st, 1858, to January 1st, 1859.

For Sewer permits,	\$1,582 80
" Vault "	1,162 50
" Building "	478 00
" Sewer rents,	2,780 01
" Drays, carts, wagons, &c.,	1,953 15
" Hacks, carriages, and drivers' licenses,	782 50
" Omnibus licenses,	3,330 00
" Paving and Repairing,	2,204 22
" Railroad turnouts,	50 00
" Railway cars,	980 00
" Miscellaneous receipts,	1,363 97
	\$16,667 15

CITY RAILROAD.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT CITY RAILROAD,
Philadelphia, January 3d, 1859.

Hon. ALEXANDER HENRY,
 Mayor of the City of Philadelphia,

SIR:—Your communication of December 18th was promptly received, and in compliance with the request which you make therein that I shall furnish you with a full, accurate, and detailed statement of the general condition and affairs of this department for the year (1858,) of all moneys received and disbursed, together with all sources of revenue under my control, &c., I have herewith the honor to submit the following report.

I succeeded R. L. West, Esq., as Superintendent of City Railroad on the 2d day of August last (1858,) at which time there was in the City Treasury to the credit of this department \$373 93 out of the annual appropriation made of \$6,000, as per settlement of City Controller and R. L. West, Esq.

I found it necessary to ask for a special appropriation of \$2,000 to enable me to keep the railroad in proper repair, out of which have

been expended since, under my superintendence, \$1,677 36, leaving a balance of \$312 64.

The total annual and special appropriations for the past year amount to \$8,000; the expenditures for the same period amount to \$7,303 43, leaving unexpended, and to the credit of the department, (\$696 57) six hundred and ninety-six dollars and fifty-seven cents.

The amount of tolls received and paid to the City Treasurer for the year 1858, including that authorized by ordinance of Councils, passed December 22d, 1857, for the payment of expenses incurred by Pennsylvania Railroad Company in relaying track on Market street, amounts to (\$12,867 12) twelve thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven dollars and twelve cents.

The general condition of the City Railroads at present are good, and so far as the means afforded to it would permit, every effort has been made to fully discharge the responsibility resting upon the department in that respect.

Permit me, in conclusion, to suggest to you the propriety of calling the attention of the City Councils to the facilities now used by the city passenger railroads for keeping the track free from snow and ice, which is done by a small salt car that is manufactured by Messrs. Murphy & Allison, car builders, at the cost of two hundred dollars. One of those cars I used on the occasion of the late snow storm on December 29th last, with great success and labor-saving to the city. All of which is respectfully submitted by

Yours, respectfully.

AUGUSTINE BARTHOLOMEW,
Superintendent City Railroad.

GIRARD ESTATE.

OFFICE OF THE GIRARD ESTATE.

HON. ALEXANDER HENRY,
Mayor of Philadelphia,

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 18th ultimo, requesting a full, accurate, and detailed statement of the general condition of the affairs of this department for the year 1858, was duly received. An apology

is due for the delay which has arisen, from a desire on my part to furnish you with a printed annual report, the same not having been furnished me by the printer. I hasten to submit the statement, as above desired.

January 1st, 1858. Balance to the credit of the trust, \$75,693 30
Amount of receipts for the year 1858, \$190,788 12,
as follows :

Income, rents from real estate,	\$152,618 70	
“ “ Personal estate,		
From Schuylkill Navigation Company,	2,334 30	
“ “ “	15,980 16	
“ Pennsylvania, - -	7,028 92	
“ City, - - -	11,217 54	
“ City Gas, - - -	572 50	
“ Philadelphia Exchange Co., -	500 00	
“ Insurance Co. of Pennsylvania,	528 00	
“ Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike Company, -	8 00	
		\$190,788 12
		\$266,481 42

Appropriations for 1858, \$201,096 42

Balances of appropriations, previous, 32,267 80

\$233,364 22

Unexpended balances,

Jan 1, 1859, - - 39,144 91

\$194,219 31

Balance in City Treasury, Jan. 1, 1859, 72,262 11

\$266,481 42

Respectfully yours, &c.,

A. W. JUVENAL,
Superintendent Girard Estate.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

CITY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE,
Philadelphia, Jan'y 6th, 1859.

ALEXANDER HENRY, Esq.,
 Mayor,

SIR:—I reply to your communication of the 18th December, requesting me to furnish “a full, accurate, and detailed statement of the general condition and affairs of my department for the year 1858, and of all moneys received and disbursed thereby, together with all sources of revenue under my control,” &c.

That the amount of money received and paid over by this department during the year 1858, is	- - - - -	\$38,893 61
The amount appropriated to this department for the expenses of the year 1858, is	-	20,250 00
There has been expended of this appropriation the sum of	- - - - -	17,671 43
Leaving a balance unexpended of	- -	\$2,578 57

The sources of revenue from this department are—water pipe, paving, curbing, Board of Health liens, and taxes.

But little of the outstanding taxes have been collected by this department, and but little may be expected from it, so long as the present crude, indigested laws on the subject remain unchanged.

Respectfully,

HENRY T. KING,
City Solicitor.

BUILDING INSPECTION.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
Philadelphia, January 3d, 1859.

HON. ALEX. HENRY,

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia,

SIR:—In reply to your communication of the 18th of December, 1858, in reference to the general condition of this department, I respectfully report, that from the organization, June 5th, 1855, to December 31st, 1858, the receipts have not paid expenses, there being at this date a deficit of \$3,481 60.

The only sources of revenue of the department, are the fees charged for the issuing of permits.

Cash received during the year 1858, \$5,318 22; disbursements during the same, \$7,536 74; leaving a deficit for the year, of \$2,218 52.

From the organization of the department, June 5th, 1858, to December 31st, 1858, permits have been issued for the erection of new buildings as follows:—From June to December 31st, 1855, 1,136; 1856, 1,584; 1857, 1,741; and 1858, 1,692. Total, 6,153.

The Inspectors are greatly embarrassed at times, in consequence of there being no general law regulating the erection of frame buildings, the Act of Consolidation providing that the old district ordinances shall remain in force until otherwise repealed, some of which prohibit, and some allow the erection of frame buildings within their limits. If Councils would enact a general law regulating the same within the consolidated city, it would relieve this department of a very troublesome matter.

Yours, respectfully,

F. M'CORMICK,

Clerk.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

No. 7 Goldsmiths Hall, Library Street.

To the Hon. ALEXANDER HENRY,

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia,

RESPECTED SIR:—In compliance with your communication of the 18th ult., requesting me to furnish information relative to the affairs and condition of the Fire Department of the city of Philadelphia, I beg leave respectfully to submit the following statement:

DISTRICTS.	Engine Companies.			Hose Companies.			Truck Companies.			Steam Fire Engines.			First Class Engines.			Second Class Engines.			Suction Engines.			Four Wheeled Hose Carriages.			Two Wheeled Hose Carriages.			Trucks.			Number of feet of Ladders.			Number of feet of Good Hose.			Number of feet of Bad Hose.			TOTAL.			Number of Members.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.	Active.	Honorary.	Contributing.	TOTAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
First	6	10	2	1	6	3	20	1	1	75	13,725	2,825	16,550	575	927	1289	2,791																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														</

Expenditures on Account of the Philadelphia Fire Department for the year A. D. 1858.

For Salary of the Chief Engineer, five Assistant Engineers, and one Secretary,	\$1,000 00
For Office Expenses,	200 00
For Rent of Office,	200 00
For Expenses of Board of Fire Directors,	200 00
For Carriage hire of Committee on Trusts and Fire Department,	125 00
For Gratuities to the Fire Engine, Hose, and Hook and Ladder Companies,	30,000 00
For Alarm Bell in the Seventh District,	425 00
For back appropriations to Fire Companies,	1,275 00
For Steam Fire Engine Philadelphia,	2,100 00
For Steam Fire Engine Hope,	1,000 00
For Steam Fire Engine Diligent,	700 00
For placing a Fire Alarm Telegraph Box in Philadelphia Hose House,	150 00
Total,	\$40,375 00

In my opinion, the Fire Department of this city, was never in better condition than at present; and the activity of its members and superiority of its apparatus fully convince me that our system is equal, if not superior, to any in the world.

The spirit of rioting, which was once the cause of bringing so much disgrace upon it, has been nearly eradicated, and it is to be hoped, that the time is not far distant, when fire riots will be spoken of as among the things that were. I entered upon the duties of this office with the determination to break up if possible, the riotous propensities of certain portions of the department, and how far I have succeeded, the public are to judge. My efforts have been partly weakened in this respect, however, by a want of proper action on the part of our City Councils, as the following will show.

I have frequently suspended companies for disorderly conduct, and have reported them to Councils, recommending their disbandment; the Committee on Trusts and Fire Department, in hearing the cases, have allowed members of the companies reported to testify in the matter, and the result invariably has been, that they evade proper punishment; frequently, too, the committee has suspended companies, say for two months, from the date they were first suspended by me, which time has nearly, if not quite elapsed, ere the case is heard; these difficulties, together with an unwillingness on the part of the members of one company to testify against those of another, have prevented offending companies in many instances, from being brought to justice, and properly punished.

False and useless alarms of fire, as your Honor has perhaps noticed, are not so frequent as they formerly were, and their scarcity may in part be attributed to the fact, that I have silenced two alarm bells under the control of fire companies, which were repeatedly rung without proper judgment, creating alarms throughout the city, and bringing companies from one end to the other, thus causing confusion and unnecessary labor, and for fires, which if found at all, were of a very trivial nature.

Acts of incendiarism too, greatly diminish in numbers, since the establishment of the fire detective system, and there can be no doubt, that the prompt investigation of the causes of a conflagra

tion has a tendency to deter the incendiary, and lessen the number of fires. Too much praise cannot be awarded to the energetic and intelligent manner in which A. W. Blackburn, Esq., the present Fire Marshal, has discharged the duties of his office.

The past year has witnessed the introduction and practical workings of the steam fire engine, a desideratum of which our city has long been in need. There are now four in actual service, several in the course of construction, and contracts are being made for others. They will form, in a short time, the most important feature in the department, and with a view of adding to their efficiency, I have recommended to Councils, through the Committee on Trusts and Fire Department, to allot steam fire engines the plugs nearest a fire; they are generally constructed to throw three or more streams, but when stationed at a remote point from the fire, it requires the greater part of their hose to carry one stream upon the burning building. This fact, together with the difficulty of giving and receiving orders between the engineers and apparatus, when the latter are any distance off, is calculated to detract greatly from their efficiency.

In conclusion, I would make my acknowledgments to Samuel G. Ruggles, Esq., Chief of Police, for assistance given while in the discharge of my duty; too much credit cannot be awarded this officer, for his excellent police arrangements in time of fire.

I remain yours, very respectfully,

SAMUEL P. FEARON,

Chief Engineer of the Philadelphia Fire Department.

January 7, 1859.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Philadelphia, Jan. 4th, 18 59

HON. ALEXANDER HENRY,
Mayor, &c.,

DEAR SIR:—I herewith present to you my annual report, showing the amounts appropriated to the Police Department for the year 1858; the transfers made to and from the different items; the balances merging on the first of January, 1859, and the actual amounts expended on each item during the year.

Schedule A shows the amounts appropriated, &c., for the annual expenses of the Department, as per Ordinance of Councils approved Dec. 31st, 1857.

Schedule B shows the amounts appropriated, &c., at various times during the year for specific purposes.

Very respectfully,

WM. C. HAINES,
Pay Clerk.

(A.)

Item.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE APPROPRIATED.	Amounts appropriated.	Amounts transferred from.	Amounts transferred to.	Balance merging.	Amount expended.
1	Salary of Mayor, Mayor's Clerk, and two Messengers	\$5,500 00	\$250 00		\$70 49	\$5,179 51
2	Salary of eight High Constables, four Specials, sixteen Lieutenants and thirty-two Sergeants.....	37,600 00	350 00		126 70	37,123 30
3	Salary of Chief of Police.....	1,500 00				1,500 00
4	Salary of six hundred and fifty Policemen.....	325,000 00	1,849 12		580 27	322,570 61
5	Rent of Ninth District Station House.....	275 00				275 00
6	Fuel.....	2,000 00			22 24	1,977 76
7	Conveyance of Prisoners.....	5,200 00			77 37	5,122 63
8	Cleansing of Station Houses.....	2,652 00			79 19	2,572 81
9	Meals and Medical Attendance.....	400 00		\$250 00	3 53	646 47
10	Repairs to Station Houses, cells, and furniture.....	900 00		600 00	45	1,499 55
11	Stationery, &c.....	1,000 00		500 00	6 50	1,493 50
12	Arrest and conviction of offenders, &c.....	1,175 00			665 19	569 81
13	Bedding, badges and rattles.....	800 00		400 00	51 11	1,148 89
14	Stoves, heaters, and repairing of same.....	800 00			313 77	486 23
15	Taking up and killing dogs.....	1,000 00			12 25	987 75
16	Incidental expenses, postage, portorage, &c.....	750 00		499 12	2 76	1,246 36
17	Salary of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph.....	1,700 00			1 27	1,698 73
18	Acids and repairs to Telegraph.....	750 00		350 00	39 25	1,060 75
19	Expenses to be incurred in procuring evidence, &c.....	1,500 00	300 00		818 18	381 82
20	Deficiencies of 1857.....	1,500 00			56 44	1,443 56
		\$392,002 00	*\$2,749 12	*\$2,599 12	*\$2,866 96	\$388,985 04

* The apparent discrepancy between the amounts transferred *from*, the amounts transferred *to*, and the balance merging, may be accounted for from the fact that the sum of \$150 transferred to Special Item 11, Schedule B, does not appear at all on the face of Schedule A.

1858.

9	October 16th,	Repairs to 11th District Station.....	\$200 00		\$3 50	\$196 50
10	" 16th,	" 12th "	100 00			100 00
11	" 16th,	" 13th "	125 00	150 00		275 00
12	" 16th,	" 14th "	100 00		4 57	95 43
13	" 16th,	" 15th "	100 00		59 77	40 23
14	" 16th,	Cleaning Station Houses.....	200 00			200 00
6	November 1st,	F. W. Binder, Services as Police Magistrate...	232 89			232 89
1	" 5th,	To pay 24 Vaccine Physicians for 1858.....	*1,200 00		562 50	637 50
1	December 4th,	George Lowber.....	500 00			500 00
2	" "	Widow of Thomas H. Snyder.....	500 00			500 00
1	" 24th,	Repairs to 6th and 10th District Station Houses	1,898 71			1,898 71
			\$9,890 73	\$150 00	\$1,221 47	\$7,819 26

In addition to the foregoing special appropriations, the amount of \$8,916 90 was expended through the Commissioner of City Property, for bills incurred for the erection of the 11th District Station House in 1857-8.

* The appropriation for the salaries of Vaccine Physicians was expended under the supervision of the Board of Health, to whom it should have been credited.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,
Police Department, January 1st, 1859.

HON. ALEX. HENRY,

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia,

SIR:—It becomes my duty to make my annual report of the state of the police force under my charge, and in doing so I report them under good discipline, and attentive to their duty. But I find, by the reduction of turnkeys and telegraph operators from the police force, together with the sick and absentees from their duty, that it leaves the districts deficient in number to guard or watch the city, as intended by the ordinance.

I would therefore suggest to your Honor, that you request Councils to pass an ordinance empowering yourself to appoint a sufficient number of substitutes to fill the vacancies, so as to have the whole force of six hundred and fifty men ready at all times for duty. I also report, that the Police Court have heard, since the 26th of last May, upwards of one hundred and forty cases or charges against police officers, a very great majority of which have been of a very trifling character.

In conclusion, I most respectfully submit the following report of arrests made during the year 1858, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, inclusive, with the various offences with which they were charged, compiled from the reports of the several Lieutenants.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

SAM'L G. RUGGLES,

Chief of Police.

The number of Arrests made, and the various offences charged, during the year 1858.

OFFENCES.	Jan	Feb.	Mar.	Ap'l	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Arson.....	5	3	8	5	7	3	3	5	.....	5	6	2	49
Assault and battery.....	165	79	81	75	70	85	175	131	133	109	111	116	1271
" with intent to kill...	7	11	7	3	6	4	9	14	21	13	9	8	112
Assaulting policemen.....	19	19	20	9	7	10	15	2	25	8	7	7	172
Abandonment.....	2	.....	1	.....	2	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	8
Aiding in escape.....	.....	1	.....	.....	4	1	2	6	11	.....	.....	.....	25
Adultery.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	5	1	1	10
Abducting.....	.....	3	.....	.....	1	.....	2	5	2	1	2	.....	14
Burglary.....	1	2	2	2	3	4	9	10	1	.....	3	9	46
" attempt to commit	.....	1	1	3	4	1	.....	1	3	.....	1	1	15
Bastardy.....	1	4	11	1	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Beating wife.....	13	9	10	13	7	26	47	18	14	15	21	13	206
Breach of peace.....	215	129	142	191	114	97	234	257	277	236	217	200	2309
" ordinance.....	5	1	6	3	15	.....	4	14	7	13	4	3	75
Bigamy.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Conspiracy.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Corner lounging.....	36	18	9	10	10	13	41	37	24	13	32	57	303
Carrying concealed weapons	7	1	5	3	2	5	11	12	18	5	3	13	85
Counterfeiting.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Disorderly houses.....	1	3	5	2	7	7	11	20	10	2	3	7	78
Desertion.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	1	.....	.....	1	5
Embezzlement.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Forgery.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2
Fornication.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	2	4
False pretence.....	2	1	.....	2	1	1	4	4	5	2	4	2	28
Fraud.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	8	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	6
Gambling.....	3	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	12	3	5	3	.....	4	33
Intoxication.....	154	106	125	121	87	254	504	599	709	457	606	671	4453
" and disorderly conduct	653	466	421	321	429	730	1112	986	767	1124	862	1020	8834
Indecent exposure.....	1	1	1	.....	2	2	2	3	9	.....	6	2	29
Insult females in the street	1	.....	2	2	1	3	9	7	5	4	5	2	41
Interfering with officers.....	11	12	14	5	12	4	15	13	18	16	5	7	132
Keeping vicious dog.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Larceny.....	95	49	62	74	56	69	86	105	80	101	111	116	1004
" suspicion of.....	24	6	7	4	4	4	9	7	33	12	9	11	130
Misdemeanors.....	57	58	70	59	42	46	63	38	44	65	57	41	640
Murder.....	1	3	1	.....	1	4	1	.....	.....	5	3	.....	20
Picking Pockets.....	1	7	13	6	15	9	3	4	2	4	9	6	79
Passing counterfeit money...	21	23	5	11	12	18	17	4	12	8	7	15	153
Perjury.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Rape.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	4	1	1	1	.....	12
" attempt to commit....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	5
Receiving stolen goods.....	7	.....	2	.....	5	3	4	11	1	1	7	1	43
Robbery.....	3	4	3	6	12	3	9	12	10	15	9	7	93
Riot.....	9	3	10	2	18	17	25	20	18	20	18	18	178
" inciting to.....	4	10	6	3	4	14	31	33	13	10	9	17	154
Sell liquor without license.	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	1	1	.....	4	2	14
" lottery policies.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2
Threatening.....	6	8	13	8	5	9	4	21	12	9	3	7	105
Vagrancy.....	96	75	137	65	106	109	79	93	260	113	91	128	1352
	1569	1115	1269	1015	1078	1558	2570	2533	2554	2397	2246	2523	22307

The number of Arrests made, and the various Offences charged, in each Police District during the year 1858.

OFFENCES.	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Fifth.	Sixth.	Seventh.	Eighth.	Ninth.	Tenth.	Eleventh.	Twelfth.	Thirteenth.	Fourteenth.	Fifteenth.	Sixteenth.	Reserve Corps.	TOTAL.
Arson.....	7	1				4	12		8		3		1	4	9			49
Assault and battery.....	89	143	64	86	89	69	90	47	75	96	133	78	16	14	38	66	78	1,271
Assault with intent to kill.....	9	8	5	4	6	12	6	4	15	10	3	5	10	4	4	2	5	112
Assaulting policemen.....	26	14		10	10	31	5	2	34	26	1	2	2			2	7	172
Abandonment.....	1									2	5							8
Aiding in escape.....	4	4							15							2		25
Adultery.....	4	2				1	1	1			1							10
Abandoning.....	8							1		2						2		14
Burglary.....	2	10		6	1	10	5		1	1	4			1	1	1	3	46
Burglary, attempt to commit.....	2	3			1	1			2	1				1	1	1	2	15
Bastardy.....	1		5		1	2	2		1	1	1	1		1		3		20
Beating wife.....	27	1		2	9	34	10	1	19	49	9	17		1		27		206
Breach of peace.....	289	182	336	77	69	168	175	115	182	207	106	130	42	2	49	110	70	2,509
Breach of ordinance.....	8	6				8		1	7	4	5	2	4	2		10	18	75
Bribery.....																	1	1
Conspiracy.....										1								1
Corner lounging.....	50	61	5		37	15	13	13	44	14	16	10	19	1			5	303
Carrying concealed weapons.....	7	25	5	6	14	4	1	1	8	4	1	2		2	1		4	85
Counterfeiting.....			2			2					3							7
Disorderly houses.....	7	12	6	1	3	2	3		5	18	6	2				6	7	78
Desertion.....		3	1										1					5
Embezzlement.....																		
Forgery.....											1						1	2
Fornication.....		3				1												4
False pretence.....	1	3	1	3	4	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1		2	1	28
Fraud.....				1												4	1	6
Gambling.....	6	4		1		4			6	1		4				5	2	33
Intoxication.....	271	143	658	851	757	194	84	93	200	111	115	373	61	22	62	133	265	4,433
Intoxication and disorderly conduct.....	533	3136	856	289	559	302	142	292	269	934	589	237	52	87	26	182	348	8,834
Indecent exposure.....	3	8	5	1	2				1	1	1		1	1	2	2	1	29
Insulting females in the streets.....	6	3	1	4	3	3	1	2	2	4	1			1			10	41
Interfering with officers.....	15	13	1	8	14	5	11	6	15	8	6	5	7	4	6	3	5	132
Keeping vicious dog.....				1												1		6
Larceny.....	51	135	77	72	49	94	109	36	47	56	5	69	3	14	22	49	75	1,004
Larceny, suspicion of.....	8	16	8	1	5	1	20	4	9	16	8	8	2	1		11	18	130
Misdemeanors.....	39	70	64	28	37	28	15	16	41	40	75	34	8	11	32	53	68	640
Murder.....	1		1	4			1	2	5	4						1	1	29
Picking pockets.....		3	3	6	12	18	13	4	2	9							9	79
Passing counterfeit money.....	3	13	7	5	6	5	20	12	8	18	20	4	8	1	1	10	12	153
Perjury.....				1									1		1			3
Rape.....	3	4											1			4		12
Rape, attempt to commit.....								1	1							3		5
Receiving stolen goods.....		2	2	1	1	11	2	2	3	1	2	7	2	1	1	4	1	43
Robbery.....	13	21	2	2	12	2	8	3	4	15	1	2	2			2	4	93
Riot.....	20	36	5	5	15	12	4	11	31	13	2	12		4	1	4	1	178
Riot, inciting to.....	6	41		3	3	9	7	11	10	12	10	21		4	2	5	10	154
Selling liquor without license.....								2	2		2		1			7		14
Selling lottery policies.....																	2	2
Threatening.....	3	5	18	4	5	9	9	1	11	22	12	3	1		1			105
Vagrancy.....	76	159	113	228	127	58	73	25	80	90	121	70	5	10	8	82	27	1,352

1530 1233 2251 1709 1853 1123 84 710 1224 1787 1335 1080 252 192 209 80 2 1052 22,507

Table of Nativity for 1858.

COUNTRIES.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	Ap'l	May	Jun.	July	Aug	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
United States.....	896	578	640	542	582	723	1246	1054	868	965	858	1033	9925
Ireland.....	495	383	428	330	363	628	1046	1176	1264	1122	1354	1193	9662
Germany.....	157	97	78	83	77	115	175	157	177	150	170	172	1608
England.....	66	43	52	45	50	67	81	118	102	129	52	97	902
Scotch.....	2	5	5	5	5	18	10	13	21	21	8	16	129
French.....	8	4	6	7	1	6	8	10	8	3	16	8	85
Wales.....	3	2				1	2		7		1	1	17
Spain.....							1		3		4	3	11
Cuba.....	1										1		2
Mexico.....								2					2
Italian.....	1	2		2					4	3	2		14
Central America.....										1			1
Swiss.....								1					1
Sweden.....		1					1						2
Canada.....										1			1
Portugal.....								1					1
Africa.....				1				1		2			4
	1569	1115	1209	1015	1078	1558	2570	2533	2554	2397	2246	2523	22,367

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AND FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH,

Philadelphia, January 1st, 1859.

Hon. ALEXANDER HENRY,

Mayor of the city of Philadelphia,

SIR:—As Superintendent of the Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph, I have the honor of submitting my third annual report.

During the year past a number of changes have been made in the corps of operators, yet I am happy to say no detriment has been occasioned thereby, nor has the utility of this branch of the public service been at all impaired.

The officers appointed or detailed by you for this important service were men generally of more than ordinary intelligence, and in all instances were prompt in acquiring a knowledge of their duty. To the constant and unwearied attention of these gentlemen must be, in a great measure, attributed the entire success and universal popularity of "The Police and Fire Alarm Telegraph." As a branch of the Police Department you are fully capable of appreciating its importance.

In many instances since you assumed the duties of Chief Magistrate of the city, its practical utility has been fully

tested. As an auxiliary to the Fire Department, it is unnecessary for me to say that it has accomplished as much, if not more, than the most sanguine friends and advocates of the system predicted, or even contemplated.

The number of officers detailed for duty as operators, exclusive of superintendent and assistants at the central office, is thirty-one, stationed as follows, viz: At the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, and 16th districts, two each, one for day and one for night duty ; at the 15th district one, who performs day duty only.

Although the business has been materially augmented, the number of fire telegraph circuits increased from six to eight, and an additional circuit constructed, connecting the several gas works, since my last annual report was presented, there has not been any increase in the number of operators at the central station.

All the operators being detailed for this special duty, are, nevertheless, as you are aware, liable to be called on at any time to perform regular police duty.

The amount expended for the maintenance of the telegraph for the past year, exclusive of salaries, was one thousand and sixty dollars seventy-five cents, (\$1,060 75.) Of this sum five hundred and thirty-eight dollars and twenty-four cents (\$538 24) was for repairs, instruments and wires, and five hundred and twenty-two dollars and fifty-one cents (\$522 51) for battery.

In my last annual report I called attention to the very contracted and inadequate accommodations at the central station. The character of the business necessarily attracts a large number of persons to the office, for whose accommodation there is no room, there being hardly sufficient space for the operators themselves.

Objectionable at all times, the apartments are particularly so in the summer season. I will add that the room in the

basement, appropriated for the batteries of both the Police and Fire alarm Telegraph, is entirely too small, and not at all adapted for the purpose.

In addition to the inconvenience of the locality, the expense of keeping them in proper order is considerably increased. I most respectfully suggest a change of location, so that the operators may enjoy a reasonable degree of comfort, the citizens having business to transact through the telegraph, be properly accommodated, and the affairs of the office more economically and satisfactorily conducted.

In my report made to your immediate predecessor on the first of January, 1858, I referred to the closing of a number of station houses, the consequent reduction in the number of fire alarm boxes, and the disarrangement, to some extent, of the system. During the year past applications have frequently been made by citizens and fire companies for additional means of communicating promptly alarms of fire.

The proposed increase appears to be absolutely necessary, in order that all our citizens should alike reap the advantages of a system which time has proven to be of incalculable importance, and Councils will, I have no doubt, at an early day see the propriety of passing an ordinance which, while it shall be relieved of the objectionable features, will accomplish the desired object.

I append hereto a statement showing the number of messages transmitted to and from the central office, together with such other statistics as may be useful or interesting, a comparison of which with the statement submitted last year, will enable you to discover the increase in the amount of business transacted during the year.

The whole number of messages transmitted over the wires during the year was thirty-six thousand three hundred and fifty-nine (36,359.)

The number of strayed and stolen animals restored to owners

by means of this department, was one thousand and three (1,003).

The Coroner was notified by telegraph four hundred and one (401) times.

The number of missing men and women restored to friends was three hundred and seventy-nine (379).

The description of counterfeit notes, cautioning storekeepers and others, two hundred and sixty-three (263).

Police officers subpoenaed by telegraph to appear before grand jury and courts, four thousand seven hundred and fifty-four (4,754).

Aside from all other considerations which entitle this branch of the public service to the fostering care of the government, the great advantages to the Police Department, enabling the chief to concentrate, in case of an apprehended outbreak or disturbance of the public peace, a large number of men at any given point, together with the facilities it affords for communicating alarms of fire promptly, it seems to me, that in the large number of lost children who are annually restored to anxious parents through means of this agency, may be found abundant reasons for the philanthropic citizens of Philadelphia to congratulate each other on the successful establishment of the Municipal Telegraph.

In closing my brief report, allow me to say that it has been a source of the highest gratification to have observed the deep interest you have ever exhibited in the success of a branch of the public service in which I feel much pride, and through you, to acknowledge the courtesy and gentlemanly conduct of the members of the police force, in all my intercourse with them.

Very respectfully,

W. J. PHILIPS,
Superintendent.

RECAPITULATION.

DISTRICTS.	Messages sent.	Messages received.	LOST CHILDREN.		STRAYED AND STOLEN ANIMALS.										Officers subpoena'd to Court, and Grand Jury.		Counterfeits.	Description of stolen property.	Push carts.	Riots.	Prize Fights.	Missing.
			Boys.	Girls.	Horses.	Horses and Wagons.	Horses and sleighs.	Cows.	Sheep.	Steers.	Hogs.	Goats.	Mules.	Coroner Notified.								
First.....	1,231	1,035	229	141	25	9	.....	6	2	1	.....	1	2	51	108	5	119	.....	.....	.....		
Second.....	1,236	1,731	235	149	30	24	3	9	.....	9	2	1	4	34	437	21	168	1	4	4		
Third.....	1,140	960	161	114	20	30	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	21	514	8	168	.....	1	.....		
Fourth.....	986	961	132	103	13	28	.....	3	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	18	413	6	44	.....	.....	.....		
Fifth.....	1,171	1,251	135	100	12	13	.....	3	2	2	5	2	.....	17	561	11	168	.....	3	1		
Sixth.....	1,132	1,366	140	95	19	19	.....	8	2	.....	1	.....	3	25	483	9	171	.....	.....	5		
Seventh.....	1,063	1,317	158	128	8	19	2	3	2	12	2	2	1	40	321	5	9	2	.....	14		
Eighth.....	1,312	1,397	144	93	12	13	1	5	8	11	2	2	2	20	272	30	168	1	4	.....		
Ninth.....	1,251	1,144	56	30	36	6	1	26	43	17	1	4	4	25	280	33	184	.....	8	2		
Tenth.....	1,185	1,433	172	135	10	11	1	7	5	22	2	1	6	51	413	5	9	3	.....	14		
Eleventh.....	1,049	1,010	74	79	12	15	1	11	12	5	1	2	6	36	431	7	6	2	.....	15		
Twelfth.....	1,086	1,206	139	84	14	12	1	8	6	18	2	1	8	17	285	27	161	1	2	.....		
Thirteenth..	940	715	7	2	16	3	.....	10	9	8	.....	1	11	8	78	21	103	.....	.....	34		
Fourteenth..	926	715	6	4	15	8	5	17	10	15	.....	.....	6	4	15	39	192	.....	.....	45		
Fifteenth...	897	683	11	2	12	6	.....	14	8	8	.....	.....	2	5	23	19	44	.....	.....	33		
Sixteenth....	1,199	1,081	15	4	15	6	.....	11	.....	8	.....	1	12	24	30	17	170	.....	.....	26		
Total.....	17,784	18,575 17,784	1,824	1,263 1,824	269	222	15	141	109	138	17	22	70	401	4,754	263	1,884	10	22	9	379	
Total.....		36,359	Total.	3,087																		

Miscellaneous Messages, 24,547.

FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1858.

	Bell rung.	Bell not rung.	False alarms.	General alarms.	NUMBER OF FIRES IN EACH FIRE DISTRICT.						
					1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.
January.....	18	8	.....	.....	6	6	4	2	1	1	1
February	18	7	1	.....	9	8	2	3	2	1	.....
March	16	16	.....	.....	10	5	5	5	1	4	2
April	13	11	2	.....	12	3	2	3	1	2	1
May.....	16	7	5	.....	10	8	1	2	1	1	.....
June	19	3	1	.....	6	7	.....	7	.....	1	1
July	14	12	.....	.....	7	9	1	6	.....	2	1
August	13	10	1	2	5	4	4	7	1	1	1
September.....	13	12	.....	.....	6	1	8	7	.....	1	2
October	14	9	.....	.....	3	4	4	11	.....	.....	1
November.....	11	12	.....	.....	4	4	6	7	2	.....	.....
December.....	12	19	.....	.....	6	11	4	5	.....	8	2
	172	126	10	2	84	70	41	65	9	17	12
		172									17
											9
Total.....		298									65
											41
											70
											84
											298

GAS TELEGRAPH.

	Messages sent. Messages received.	
Station 3.....	32	3
“ 4.....	224	24
“ 5.....	251	62
“ 6.....	71	21
	578	110
		578
Total.....	688	

No record of message sent to or received from Station 7.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT.

CENTRAL POLICE OFFICE,
FIRE DETECTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 1859.

Hon. ALEXANDER HENRY, Mayor.

SIR :—In accordance with section 18 of the Rules and Regulations adopted by your Honor for the government of the police force of the City of Philadelphia, I hereby transmit, for your information, a report of the operations of the Fire Detective branch of that service, for the year commencing January 1, and ending December 31, 1858.

In the history of fires in Philadelphia, the past year has been remarkable. The city has been peculiarly favored in the immunity from the ravages of the devouring element, which has been vouchsafed to it by the mercy of an overruling and all-wise Providence. While other cities in the United States have been visited by extensive and calamitous conflagrations, no fire of an extraordinary or disastrous character has occurred in our metropolis. For this, our warmest gratitude is due to Him who directs and controls all things—hears our prayers and gives us blessings.

For the last six months especially, the scarcity of fires in this city has been unprecedented. This fact has been a general topic of conversation among the firemen, and our citizens of all classes have noted it. To property owners and insurers both, it has been a subject of much gratulation, and almost every body has hailed it as a good omen for the future.

The creation of the fire police by your predecessor, Mr. VAUX, is universally acknowledged to have been one of the wisest acts of his administration, and, certainly, no branch of the detective department has ever been established which has won such general popularity. The continuance of the system was one of the very first steps of your honor's administration, and I am happy to say, that the act has met the approbation of the entire community.

The establishment of a fire detective agency is thus powerfully endorsed by an able writer who has lately advocated the measure :

“ We need in this country, where frequent and destructive fires are characteristic of our condition, not less an intelligent and comprehensive system of inquiry into the causes of these fires, than a sure and efficient method for their extinguishment. We require, in brief, the fire investigator not less than the steam fire engine. Perhaps the former may even take precedence, as meeting a more pressing want, inasmuch as prevention is always better than cure. If we wish to prevent the occurrence of large fires, and obviate the losses they entail, we must adopt a system of carefully, closely, and unweariedly investigating the origin of every fire that happens. No mere casual search will answer the purpose, but the examination must be the effect of a system, which, by practice, would be reduced to a science, and enable the investigator to trace up unerringly the facts in each case, until he could authoritatively pronounce whether the fire proceeded from incendiarism, that was to be detected and punished; carelessness, deserving exposure and reprobation; defective construction of buildings or flues, that required to be prohibited; or from natural causes or spontaneous combustion, which needed explanation, in order to direct others how to avoid their danger.

“ Such investigations could not fail of effect, because they would be continually directing public attention to the causes exposing their property to destruction. Each tenant of a house or store would be aware that he was held morally responsible for the safety, not only of his own property, but also of that of his neighbors; the incendiary would cease to ply his fiendish business, either for purposes of wanton revenge or fraud, through fear of detection; and carelessness and reckless disregard of the laws of safety would be held in check

by the certainty of exposure. The dread of a careful investigation by men specially trained to the pursuit, and possessing, through long practice, the reputation of unerring sagacity in their conclusions, in short, offers the only sure remedy against the combined causes that are constantly subjecting us to enormous losses of property, and to the not unfrequent destruction of life by fire."

Soon after your induction into office, you issued the following orders :

1. High Constable A. W. BLACKBURN, of the detective force, is detailed as Fire Marshal, and will be respected and obeyed accordingly. His head-quarters will be at the Central Police Station. All orders emanating from him must be complied with, and executed with the utmost promptness and dispatch; and it is made imperative upon the officers of the police department, at all times, to cheerfully render him every assistance in the performance of his duties.

2. The lieutenants are directed to enjoin upon the officers of their respective divisions the great importance of vigilance in discovering, and quickness in extinguishing fires, as well as alertness in giving the alarm for the same, when necessary. Patrolmen, especially those on night duty, must be required to give particular attention to the prevention of incendiarism and the detection of incendiaries. The patrol officers must also be instructed to exercise constant watchfulness, in order to prevent false alarms by mischievous parties tampering with the telegraph signal boxes, and building bonfires. All persons detected in such acts must be instantly taken into custody, and held to answer.

3. All properties on the several beats of the patrolmen, which, from their exposed situation or combustible character, offer peculiar temptation to the incendiary—such, for instance, as unoccupied houses, unfinished buildings, sheds, outhouses, stables, barns, lumber-yards, shops, establishments for the

storage and sale of hay and straw, rag warehouses, paper stores, etc., should be specially watched, and all prowlers seen at unreasonable hours, under circumstances to warrant a suspicion of incendiary designs, should, in all cases, be overhauled, and those failing to give a satisfactory account of themselves, invariably taken to the station house. All buildings found open, partially dilapidated, or in any way exposed to the depredations of incendiaries, must be reported to the Fire Marshal.

4. Every fire that occurs, however trivial it may be, even to the burning of a bed, or a window curtain, or the blazing of a foul chimney, must be at once reported by the officer on whose beat it happens, and information of it transmitted forthwith by telegraph, to the Central Station, for the attention of the Fire Marshal.

5. Whenever a fire takes place, the premises burned shall be taken charge of by the police, and after the extinguishment of the flames, nothing allowed to be disturbed until the arrival of the Fire Marshal, to whom the officers are expected to yield the readiest aid in making his investigations.

6. All parties detected in the commission of arson, or suspected of having committed, or intending to commit that crime, must be promptly arrested, and detained for examination by the Fire Marshal, who is to be notified of the arrest as speedily as possible. No person apprehended by the officers for incendiarism shall be taken before a committing magistrate for a hearing, until the Fire Marshal has been informed of the arrest, and has had an opportunity of thoroughly examining the case.

7. Every officer of the police who may obtain any information relative to fires which have been the work of design, or may have any knowledge of parties suspected of being incendiaries, will, without delay, communicate the same to the Fire Marshal.

8. The fire detective branch being one of the most important branches of the police service, every officer of the department is enjoined to be active and vigilant in aiding the Fire Marshal to ferret out and bring to justice the criminals who wantonly and wickedly destroy property and jeopardize human life.

It affords me great pleasure to inform you that these orders have been carried out to my utmost satisfaction, and with an alacrity and efficiency which have won from me the highest admiration. Indeed, the officers of every grade have seemed to vie with each other in rendering me the readiest assistance in the discharge of my duties, while they have manifested the deepest interest in every thing connected with the department of the police service, in the direction of which you did me the honor to continue me at the time of your installation as the chief magistrate of the city.

A great many fires have been prevented by the vigilance and resolution of the patrolmen, in watching and following up incendiaries, and numerous others discovered in their incipient state, and extinguished before gaining dangerous headway. The services of the night patrol particularly, in quietly putting out small fires, and promptly giving the alarm for more serious ones, cannot be too highly appreciated. Thousands of dollars worth of property have thus been saved by the policemen. A number of valuable lives have also been rescued at fires by the humane and heroic exertions of officers. One faithful officer was struck down dead from the effects of over-exertion and suffocation at a fire, while in the very act of battling with the flames. Several other members of the force have sustained severe injuries by devotion to their duties at fires. Two of them narrowly escaped sacrificing their lives in struggles with incendiaries, whom they attempted to arrest.

The excellent, though trite maxim, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," has always been a favorite

idea of mine, and experience has convinced me that in nothing is its value more striking than in its application to fires. For the last nine months, at least one half of my time has been employed in laboring assiduously to prevent conflagrations, principally those of an incendiary nature; and I am glad to state that my efforts have been crowned with the most gratifying success. Owners and occupants of properties exposing them to the depredations of incendiaries by their own thoughtlessness have had their attention called to the fact, and been induced to remedy the neglect. Where gross carelessness (I have seen such instances which excited my amazement) has been discovered, those guilty of it have been courteously remonstrated with, and prevailed upon to remove the cause of danger. Wherever a building, or other property, has been found in such a condition of exposure as constantly to invite acts of arson, I have relaxed no exertion to have it put in a state of safety.

There are, however, a number of unoccupied or abandoned buildings in different parts of the city, in a partial or complete state of dilapidation, which are either too valueless to admit of repairs, or are objects of disputed ownership. Such places are eye-sores to any locality, and are constant sources of annoyance to the residents of neighborhoods in which they are situated. They are liable at all times to fires, not only from the recklessness or criminality of depraved wretches who frequently seek shelter in them, but from the mischief of heedless juveniles and wicked young men, and thus the surrounding properties are placed in continual jeopardy. I would suggest, that if the power already conferred by the consolidation act is not sufficient, authority be obtained from the Legislature, empowering Councils to pass an ordinance compelling the nailing up, enclosing, or demolishing of such buildings, as in each case may be considered best, by the owners or reputed owners, or those claiming possession, on

pain of a proper penalty for neglect, failure, or refusal to do so, after due notice ; and in case no owner or claimant can be discovered, that the police be authorized to tear them down whenever they are complained of as a nuisance by the neighbors, or are deemed by the officers dangerous to the adjacent properties in the event of fire.

Whatever will tend to diminish fires, and by that contribute to the preservation of property, interests every one, and ought to be a matter of anxious concern with our corporate rulers. The more fire-proof we construct our buildings, the less risk we will run of mishaps from fire, and wise municipal regulations upon this subject, are of paramount importance. My records show that a large amount of the burnings which are ascertained to be the work of design, originate in wooden structures. These fabrics are more readily fired than any other kind of building, and when once involved in flames, often endanger more substantial edifices which they may happen to adjoin. The sooner we get rid of frame buildings, of all sorts and descriptions, in Philadelphia, the fewer will be the number of fires we shall be obliged to chronicle.

I find that numbers of structures composed entirely of wood, comprising chiefly sheds, stables, and shops, have recently been erected in all the built-up parts of the city, in open violation of law. Wherever I have discovered them, I have directed them to be removed, and all parties failing to comply with the order, will be prosecuted. Some worthy poor men have built them in ignorance of the law, and to these persons I have shown all the leniency allowable. Most of the owners of these structures have pleaded in extenuation of the legal infraction, that they were designed to occupy their sites but temporarily ; still, as they are dangerous every moment they stand, their demolition and removal have been insisted upon.

The existing laws prohibiting the erection of frame buildings, are the same that were in force prior to consolidation.

They have undergone no change since the passage of that Act, and on examining them thoroughly, I find them unsuited to our present enlarged and compact municipality. They lack uniformity, and are altogether very defective. The ordinances of the old city proper, and those of the adjoining districts and boroughs of the county, differ in the mode of their enforcement, as well as in the amount of the penalties they impose. In some of the outer districts, there never was any ordinance of the kind in operation at all. In others, wooden edifices were interdicted only in prescribed localities, and there was nothing to prevent them from going up beyond certain boundary lines. There is now an urgent necessity for the immediate enactment of an uniform ordinance, forbidding the construction, under a heavy penalty, in any part of the consolidated city, except the strictly rural portions, of all framed, brick-paned or other buildings, the walls whereof are not wholly composed of incombustible materials. And I would therefore respectfully suggest that your Honor call the attention of Councils to this important matter with as little delay as possible.

The Act of May, 1855, which provides for the regulation and inspection of buildings in the City of Philadelphia, and for the better preservation of life and property, is, in many respects, an excellent law, but some of its sections are indefinite, vague and ambiguous, and taken as a whole, there is a lameness about it, which demands further legislation. For instance, although it conveys the idea that wooden buildings cannot be erected anywhere in the consolidated city, excepting in the rural districts, yet it is specifically silent in regard to that matter. Again, while its 9th section says, "nor shall it be lawful for any person or persons to build any wooden joist, rafter, beam, or girder in any chimney or flue whatever, in any house or building," and in its 12th section it declares, "that no steam-engine shall be erected in said city without

the inspection and approval of an inspector, for the security and safety of the inhabitants," there is not a word said concerning, and no provision whatsoever made for the manner in which heaters, furnaces, ranges, ovens and other recent contrivances for warming, culinary, manufacturing and other purposes, shall be constructed.

When the walls of an edifice are finished, and the structure enclosed, the building inspector, if satisfied that the work has been done conformable to law, gives his certificate accordingly, to the owner or contractor, and takes his departure, not claiming to exercise any further supervision over the premises. After awhile, heating apparatus is required to be introduced, and the constructor, either through culpable ignorance of his business, or reckless carelessness, places his hot-air flues and smoke pipes in such close proximity to joists, flooring boards, or other wood work, that the house is liable to catch fire at almost any hour of the day or night. In truth, a badly constructed hot-air furnace in such shells of dwellings as are too frequently run up in American cities now-a-days, is a modern improvement more to be dreaded than desired. If the dwellers in these habitations, may not be said to actually sleep over a magazine of gunpowder, they at least can have no assurance, when they retire to bed at night, that they will be alive next morning.

These glaring defects of the Building Inspectors' Act, should be corrected by a supplement at the present session of the Legislature. A late proposition to make the Board of Building Inspectors a department of the city government, and thus bring it directly under the control of Councils, is, in my opinion, a wise and judicious movement. The Corporation of Philadelphia, it seems to me, ought certainly to have the regulation of everything relating to the construction of buildings, and likewise the introduction into the same of steam power, or heaters, or any other apparatus or contrivance that might prove a cause of fire.

During the past year the chimneys of numerous houses have taken fire from the carelessness and neglect of the occupants in not having them cleaned, when foul; and in some instances, the buildings in which these mishaps occurred, have made narrow escapes from destruction. The liability of smoke flues to become dirty, having been greatly diminished by the general use of coals as fuel, the good old practice of chimney sweeping has been well nigh forgotten, and the wholesome police regulations that once directed it, appear to be obsolete. Circumstances require that the abandoned custom should be revived. Owing to the high price of charcoal, manufactured kindling-wood is fast taking its place; and this article, being freely employed in building coal fires, it rapidly generates soot, and hence the frequency of the burning out of chimneys. As a preventive of these accidents, which are always attended with more or less hazard to the houses, I would suggest the enactment by Councils of an uniform ordinance, regulating chimney sweeping, and imposing a penalty upon any house-keeper or other person whose chimney shall take fire and blaze out at the top, unless the same may have been swept within a reasonable time, to be specified in said ordinance, or who shall set his or her chimney on fire for the purpose of cleansing it.

The acts of Assembly establishing regulations for chimney sweepers, passed in the latter part of the last century, are antiquated, and do not suit the city of Philadelphia of this day. The ancient mode, too, of cleaning dirty chimneys, by sending boys down them, it is to be hoped, has also had its day. There have ever been strong objections to it on the score of humanity. Now it is often hazardous, and sometimes impracticable, in consequence of the changes in the manner of constructing flues and erecting fire places, which improvements in heating and cooking, have brought about. Machines for cleansing small smoke flues have been in use for some

years, but they are not perfect. Chimneys will doubtless, ere long, all be swept by improved machinery, without the necessity of entering the flue and risking human life by perilous climbing. The inventive spirit of the age can scarcely fail to furnish the means of accomplishing this necessary work, without stunting the growth and discasing the bodies of poor little sable-colored lads.

The importance of providing against the contingency of fires originating from chimneys, cannot be overrated. The defective construction of these flues is a fruitful source of such casualties. In several cases of fire thus produced, my investigations have disclosed the most glaring culpability on the part of the builder. In one instance, where a fire broke out at the hour of midnight, and came near burning a whole family to death in their beds, so flimsy was the masonry work of the chimney, that, on examining portions of it, they crumbled to pieces under the slight pressure of the hand! The best chimneys, in the course of time, are rendered unsafe by exposure to the weather and the action of the coal gases on the lime in the cement of the brick work. Besides being regularly cleaned, they should be examined every few years by a competent mason, and all discovered defects repaired. Stone caps on the tops of chimneys offer the most effectual barrier to the insidious inroads of the weather.

In addition to my suggestions relative to the passage by Councils of stringent laws in relation to frame buildings and chimneys, I would recommend the adoption of an ordinance prohibiting, under a severe penalty, the building of bonfires, and the burning of shavings, straw, rubbish, and other combustibles, in the public thoroughfares, or in private yards, or on any lot or piece of ground so near to any building or other property, as to endanger the same. Last summer, my attention was called to a case, where a German, in burning the contents of a straw bed on his own premises, set fire to the

fence separating his yard from that of his next door neighbor, and, in his fright, losing all presence of mind, was unable to master the flames. The coolness of an old fireman, who happened to be passing, and rushed into the place, alone prevented what might have proven a serious conflagration. On a windy night, last fall, a colored woman in the southern part of the city, emptied into the street from a bed tick upon which a sick man had recently died, a quantity of chaff, and ignited it. In a few minutes, the roofs of two frame houses caught fire from some of the small particles of kindled matter, and although the flames were extinguished by the application of a couple of pails of water, a whole row of wooden edifices was put in imminent peril.

A fire happened, at the hour of noon, in a dwelling, in the beginning of this winter, the origin of which was for some time wrapped in mystery, but was finally traced to a bonfire built by a gang of disorderly boys upon an open lot that surrounded the house. The bonfire had been started by the urchins on the previous afternoon, and the embers glowing all night, were fanned into sparks by a strong gale that sprang up the next forenoon. Some of these sparks were blown into the second story through a window, and fired beds and clothing in two communicating apartments.

The laws of the State Legislature, already in force in Philadelphia, in relation to gunpowder, guncotton and saltpetre, if properly carried out, I deem ample for the momentous objects for which they were designed, but I think that the legal enactments in reference to fireworks, are inadequate to their purpose, and that the City Councils ought to pass an ordinance regulating the manufacture, storage and sale of all kinds of pyrotechnics. At every recurrence of the anniversary of American Independence, large quantities of these articles are consumed, and one of the invariable results, is the recording of a chapter of fires which they are sure to occasion. To

stop the explosion of fireworks on a holiday so glorious to every American, would be like strangling patriotism itself. Young America at least, would certainly break out in open rebellion against it. Still, public safety demands that the patriotic custom should be controlled, and kept within the bounds of prudence. This can easily be done by judicious municipal regulations.

An exceedingly dangerous habit on the part of some of the vendors of pyrotechnics, is the displaying of large quantities of them for rapid sale on the sidewalks in front of their shops. When thus exposed, a single squib falling among them, whether by accident or design, may, in an instant, ignite and explode the whole collection, with the chances of serious injuries to people passing along the street. On the fourth of July last, some mischievous parties threw a portion of a bunch of ignited fire crackers on a pile of all sorts of small pyrotechnics, displayed upon a platform at the door of a store under the Mansion House Hotel, corner of Eleventh and Market streets, which caused the entire lot to explode with a loud report, followed by the shattering of the windows and fixtures of the store, and the firing of the building. The promptness of the firemen was all that saved the hotel, as well as the fine depot of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, from falling a prey to the flames.

Being anxious to ascertain, as a matter of curiosity and information both, how many fires, ranging from the smallest to the largest, would happen in the course of a single year in a great metropolis like Philadelphia, with 80,000 buildings, spreading over an area of 130 square miles, occupied as residences and business places by not less than 600,000 people, and containing millions of perishable property, I adopted a system in the early part of last year, which I design rendering more perfect this year, of accomplishing the purpose. My main sources of information, of course, have been the fire,

telegraph and police departments, but many citizens of all classes have aided me in the task, and every facility I desired, in furtherance of the object, has been extended to me by the insurance companies.

The result has surprised myself, and will no doubt astonish a great many persons. My record, which has been carefully kept, and is as accurate as was possible for untiring devotion to the subject to make it, shows that the whole number of fires in the consolidated city for the year, including the most trivial as well as the most destructive, was 824. Only about 350 of these fires required the services of the fire department for their extinguishment. The police discovered and extinguished 83. The remaining 391 were put out by the inmates of the dwellings, or the occupants of other premises, in which they took place, either unaided, or by the casual assistance of firemen, policemen, neighbors and others.

After thoroughly investigating each particular fire, however trifling it might be, and basing my conclusions upon the best evidence that could be obtained, the origin of the fires was found to be as follows:—Accident, 125; incendiarism, 121; carelessness, 76; mischief of juveniles, 59; explosion of camphene and fluid lamps, 44; recklessness of intoxicated people, 25; children playing with lucifer matches, 23; unknown, 21; spontaneous combustion, 16; defective chimneys, 14; rekindling of extinguished fires, 15; sparks from chimneys, 14; malicious mischief, 13; clothing taking fire on person, 12; sparks from burning buildings, 12; suspicious, 12; fire-works, 11; lightning, 9; carelessness of vagrants, 8; friction of machinery, 8; heat of furnaces 8; defective flues, 8; upsetting of burning fluid lamps, 7; heat of steam-boilers, 7; stove pipes in too close proximity to woodwork, 7; sparks from forge fires, 7; children playing with fire, 6; gas lights in show-windows, 6; burglary and arson, 5; defective gas fittings, 5; falling of camphene lamps,

5; explosion of gas, 5; hot ashes, 5; curtains blown into gas lights, 4; sparks from chimneys of steam fire engines, 4; defective stove pipes, 4; paper balloons taking fire in the air and falling on roofs, 3; larceny and arson, 3; sparks from bonfires, 3; wooden joists running into flues, 3; explosion of chemicals, 3; clothes catching fire while drying before stoves and fire-places, 3; defective construction of buildings, 3; upsetting of stoves in which fire was burning, 3; freaks of insane persons, 3; slacking of lime, 2; children playing with lights, 2; hot coals, 2; sparks from forges falling into charcoal bins, 2; sparks from forges falling into sawdust boxes, 2; explosion of gunpowder, 2; mice nibbling wax matches, 2; spontaneous combustion from heat of the sun, 2; heat of a cooking range, 2; boiling over of glue, 2; taking of lights into closets, 2; hot cinders from stoves, 2; spark from blasting, 1; explosion of a steam-boiler, 1; heat of a bake-oven, 1; explosion of pyrotechnics, 1; handkerchief in the hands of an aged female taking fire from a stove, 1; explosion of a liquor still, 1; illumination, 1; ignition of the vapor of camphene while filling a lamp too near to a light, 1; rat gnawing lucifer matches, 1; burning cigar stump thrown into a wooden spittoon containing sawdust, 1; boiling over of tar, 1; heat of a steam-pipe, 1; explosion of a fluid can while filling a lighted lamp, 1; capsizing of a pan of fat into the fire, 1; defective stove, 1; spark from a locomotive, 1; joist fired by heat of a furnace in an adjoining house, 1; spark from a candle, by the light of which a party were playing cards in a hay loft, 1; cinders from the furnace of a locomotive, 1; gas burner, 1; premature explosion of a blast, 1; meat falling into the fire, 1; furnace in too close proximity to woodwork, 1; spark from the chimney of a steam-boiler, 1; carboy of sulphuric acid rolling off a dray, 1; rafter projecting too far into a chimney flue, 1; defective construction of a clay furnace, 1; ignition of rosin by a coal

of fire from a furnace, 1; clothes-horse upsetting against a stove, 1; latent spark in a moulding shop, 1; cask of brandy capsizing against a hot stove, 1; spilling of molten metal, 1; heat of a cooking range in an adjoining house, 1; clothing taking fire while drying on a clothes-horse, 1; spark from a furnace, 1; boiling over of roofing composition, 1; leakage of gas, 1; leakage of acid, 1; treading on a match dropped upon the floor near a collection of sweepings, 1; lucifer match that had fallen on the floor, scraped and ignited by shutting a closet door, 1; upsetting of a can of camphene, and spilling the inflammable contents on the floor near a hot stove, 1; explosion of foul air from contact with a lighted candle, 1; unextinguished cigar lighter thoughtlessly thrown into a bulk window among loose paper, 1; explosion of carburetted hydrogen gas, 1; ignition of hydrogen gas generated in the manufacture of copperas, 1—Total, 24.

The causes of fires open an interesting field for investigation and study. The most erroneous notions are current in respect to this subject. A general impression prevails that two-thirds of all the fires which occur in Philadelphia are the work of design; and there are hundreds of people whom it would be hard to convince that almost any fire could have been otherwise than willful, unless they actually saw it commence themselves. To combat these fallacious ideas is the most trying part of the labor of my office. Numbers of fires, the commencement of which is not at once palpable, are reported and published as arsons, in advance of any inquiry, when a careful examination into all the facts and circumstances attending them, unerringly traces their origin to accidental or natural causes of ignition.

I was sent for last spring to investigate the case of a fire which began in a cockloft one day, while the family were preparing dinner. As it could not be accounted for, it was at once attributed to design. A colored woman who was wash-

ing at the house was so strongly suspected, that her accusation and arrest had been seriously contemplated by the members of the family. A searching examination was gone into, and in a short time the real cause of the fire was discovered. Where the chimney came up through the loft, it was defective in several places. A couple of urchins used to go upon the roof and fly kites, without it being known to their parents, whose commands they were violating. To hide a lot of kite paper, they stuffed it between the brickwork of the chimney and a wooden trimmer around it. It being wash-day, the dinner was late, and to hurry the cooking of it, a brisk fire was built with light wood, that created sparks. One of the sparks making its way through a small hole in the masonry of the flue, set fire to the paper, and in a few minutes the loft was in flames, which were roaring over the heads of the unconscious inmates, who all the while knew nothing of their danger, until the alarm was sounded from the street. The innocence of the washer-woman was thus conclusively established.

Incendiarism, without doubt, annually occasions a large amount of the fires that take place in our city; still, the aggregate number from other causes forms by far the largest proportion. The most common causes are accidents not foreseen, and generally unavoidable. Next to this class of casualties, in the list of causes, is carelessness, deserving always of more or less censure. Intemperance ranks next. This baneful habit is the occasion of many shocking mishaps by fire. Defective construction likewise contributes its share to swell the list; for we cannot yet boast of any very great improvement in metropolitan buildings.

I am fully satisfied, from facts daily developed by my investigations, that spontaneous combustion is a powerful agent in the production of fires, and that numerous conflagrations, attributed to design, owe their origin to this cause. Hay in

the mows of barns and lofts of stables, when closely packed in large masses, and affected by dampness, either by being put in wet, or else penetrated by rain or moisture, will catch fire of itself; so will goods stored compactly in a warehouse, when damp, especially such articles as cotton, flax, hemp and rags. The process is in strict accordance with scientific laws. Damp produces decomposition, and the heat of the mass causes fermentation. Carbonic acid gas is given off by the fermentation, and a slow combustion ensues. Even haystacks, when the rains have penetrated them, will sometimes catch fire of themselves. I have noticed that when a fire happens in certain conditions of the weather, for instance, after a long-continued rain, or when the atmosphere is dripping with moisture, and its temperature heated and sultry, it is almost sure to be a barn, a stable, or a feed store, or else a cotton warehouse or rag store. Every intelligent person, who has any knowledge of chemical affinities, understands the theory of spontaneous combustion, but ignorant people who do not comprehend it, are apt to ridicule it. Country farmers entertain strong prejudices against it, and are exceedingly incredulous in regard to it. Some of them laugh at the idea.

The learned writer referred to in another part of this report, speaks as follows of spontaneous combustion:

“The fires that owe their origin to spontaneous combustion are much more numerous than the public are aware of, or will readily believe. Indeed, we are convinced that many fires, whose mysterious occurrence in places where neither lamps nor stoves were used, have caused them to be included among the list owing their origin to the melevolence of the incendiary, have in truth been produced by natural causes of ignition, which better information would have guarded against. Dr. Inman has read before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, a larger and more complete account of what is known of the circumstances and causes of spontaneous

combustion, than we have yet seen. It also contains a report of various experiments by the author himself, which tend still further to throw a light on this heretofore nascent and somewhat obscure subject. In testing the influence of different substances, on painters' oil, for instance, in evolving heat and producing spontaneous combustion, Dr. Inman found that charcoal had the most powerful influence; indeed, of this fact painters are already aware, inasmuch as they know that lamp black and their oil have at once to be ground, or they will ignite even in a few minutes. Next to charcoal, stood sponge, then worsted, sawdust, cotton, wool, tow and shavings. The precise measure and time in which these various substances absorb oxygen when mixed with oil, are noted in a tabular form. We were rather surprised to find worsted, an animal substance which merely singes, and does not tend, under ordinary circumstances, to burst into flame when fire is applied, ranking here next to charcoal, and before cotton-wool; but our impression of the greater risk of spontaneous combustion from cotton than from animal wool, is nevertheless borne out by these experiments; for Dr. Inman afterwards remarks in reference to cotton, though not specially to animal wool, that in effect, and on account probably of the relative forms and surfaces and access to air, of the different substances, 'it is far more difficult to get small quantities of tow to ignite, even under very favorable circumstances, than cotton-wool; indeed we may say that when the quantities used are small, it is difficult to procure actual ignition without anything but cotton-wool; when the quantity used is large, it is only a question of time.'

One point well worthy of notice is the enormous amount of oxygen absorbed by painters' oil in the first twelve hours, compared with the ultimate quantity. This, the writer suggests, may explain how it is that fires so frequently break out within a very brief period after workmen have quitted pre-

mises where they may have been using painters' oil, and have left their greasy aprons, rags, or pieces of cotton on which their hands may have been wiped near to each other, or to a warm steam-pipe or stove not yet cold (or in a warm summer day, or sunshine, we might add); or that some few drops of oil have extended from the cans to some dust, saw-dust, shavings, and the like. In such cases we have the materials provided and the train laid, as it were, for a conflagration which will burst out in an hour of two.

Professor Graham refers to instances of olive oil igniting upon saw dust; of greasy rags from butter, heaped together, taking fire within twenty-four hours; of the spontaneous combustion of tape measures, covered with oil varnish; and even of an oilskin umbrella put aside in a damp state. The ignition of such materials, generally, it must be noted, is greatly favored by a slight warmth, such as the heat of the sun.

Several fires have come under my notice, that broke out under similar circumstances in the cocklofts of old dwellings in a bad state of repair, and which, from a mystery that seemed to characterize them, gave a great deal of concern and disquietude to the families occupying the houses. The origin of these fires was at last satisfactorily traced to the spontaneous ignition of collections of greasy rubbish, occasioned sometimes by the warmth of chimneys passing through the loft, and at other times by the intense heat of the sun, expanding its power upon the roofs and penetrating through open trap-doors on extremely hot days. In two of these instances, strong suspicion attached to servant girls, who were at length discovered to be entirely innocent.

The cockloft, in most houses, is made the depository of all kinds of refuse things, such as dirty rags, old hats, bonnets, and other articles of cast-off wearing apparel, remnants of worn out bed clothing, &c. This filthy stuff is allowed to accumulate for years without being disturbed. The permanent housekeeper never gives it a thought. A family vacating

a dwelling, hardly ever removes it. The succeeding tenant finds it there, when he comes in, and does not touch it; and so the accumulation goes on from time to time. This rubbish invariably contains matter of an oily nature, and combustion may ensue from the effect of heat at any moment. As a measure of domestic safety, I would advise every family to clear out of their lofts all such vile collections, particularly where the house has suffered from the ravages of time.

The tendency to spontaneous combustion from the mingling of oil with sawdust, is so great, that it would be prudent for oil merchants, and druggists, and all other dealers in and manufacturers of oily and greasy substances, to discontinue the use of sawdust or straw for cleaning the floors of their establishments, where they become coated with oil or grease. With every precaution on their part, a fire might happen. A small quantity of sweepings, the removal of which had been forgotten, left in an oil store or factory at night, would be sufficient to cause a conflagration. In all such places as I have named, and in all similar establishments, where floors get saturated with oils and grease, my advice is that sand be used for cleansing them, instead of sawdust.

"The statistics of fires," says a late writer, "are by no means devoid of interest, and the time may come, when they will form an index to the social advancement of the people; for in proportion as houses are built more fire-proof, and the habits of the inmates become more careful, the number of destructive fires will assuredly be lessened."

The properties destroyed or damaged by fire last year comprise the following list: Dwellings, 330; sheds, 84; stables, 75; stores, 71; fences, 63; workshops, 49; manufactories, 43; outhouses, 29; barns, 27; unoccupied buildings, 26; hotels, 17; window curtains, 17; ruins, 14; shade trees, 14; clothing, 12; beds, 11; counting-houses, 10; mills, 10; unfinished buildings, 9; offices, 8; lumber-yards, 8; empty barrels, 8; haystacks, 8; fruit trees, 7; bakeries, 6; churches, 6;

foundries, 6; laboratories, 5; brush piles, 5; carriage-houses, 5; slaughter-houses, 5; brick-kilns, 5; smoke-houses, 4; lumber piles, 4; awnings, 4; bundles of clothing, 4; refectories, 3; animal pens, 3; wagons loads of hay, 3; scows, 3; batteaux, 3; school-houses, 3; fire-boards, 3; baskets of clothes, 3; fire engine houses, 3; heaps of dry leaves, 3; ropewalks, 3; wagon-houses, 3; arbors, 2; quarries, 2; breweries, 2; hose-houses, 2; stacks of fodder, 2; wood-yards, 2; halls, 2; laundries, 2; ice-houses, 2; pyrotechnic works, 2; clothes-houses, 2; piles of rubbish, 2; hen-coops, 2; pile of staves, 1; pot of pitch, 1; cart, 1; coffee roasting establishment, 1; liquor cask, 1; hogshead, 1; depot, 1; steam tug, 1; charcoal refinery, 1; tar pot, 1; bath-house, 1; pottery, 1; bed curtain, 1; navy yard shed, 1; cabin, 1; lot of wadding, 1, dog-kennel, 1; scale-house, 1; statuary rooms, 1; dye-house, 1; tar barrel, 1; patent roofing factory, 1; toll-gate house, 1; woods, 1; railroad ties, 1; drop curtain, 1; ferry-house, 1; pier, 1; steam-boat slip, 1; roll of carpet, 1; carriage, 1; pile of shavings, 1; steam propeller, 1; omnibus, 1; distillery, 1; screw-dock, 1; savings bank, 1; printing establishment, 1; corporation lamp, 1; shuffle-board, 1; lager beer saloon, 1; warehouse, 1; truck-house, 1; college, 1; ten pin alley, 1; hay press, 1; carboy of vitrol, 1; bridge, 1; hot-house, 1; almshouse, 1; brig, 1; canal boat, 1. Total, 1123.

The above list embraces the property in which the fire originated, and also every building, attachment, outbuilding, enclosure, or any other structure or appurtenance, or any thing else, to which the flames extended. The number of these properties totally destroyed, was comparatively few, except in the rural wards, and a large majority of them sustained only very slight damage.

The total amount of loss by fire for the year was \$285,729; insurance, \$172,315; clear loss, \$113,414. As compared with the losses by fire in Philadelphia for the year 1857,

these figures exhibit a reduction of nearly fifty per cent. The year has been a most fortunate and successful one to the insurance companies of our city. The fire companies will receive a handsome dividend from the Fire Association. The large amount of loss not covered by insurance, is an index to the character of many of the properties consumed—the uninsured buildings being generally stables, sheds, workshops, unoccupied houses, and other structures of a combustible nature, located in the suburbs. Such places are seldom insured. They are usually of too little value to occasion uneasiness to the owner; and underwriters, in consequence of the danger from their continual liability to be burned down, do not care to take risks upon them.

The number of lives lost by fire was 52, and the number of animals and birds burned, 206.

The number of persons injured by fires was 296. Number of narrow escapes, 178.

The number of persons rescued at fires by firemen, was 33, and the number saved by police officers, 21.

The instances of chimneys smoking or blazing from foulness, numbered 180.

Number of bonfires, 282. These small street fires are a nuisance, and it were well if the custom of building them on election nights and occasions of public celebrations, was “more honored in the breach than in the observance.”

Whole number of alarms, 279; of which 76 proceeded from some cause, and 203 were without cause, or false. Quite a number of alarms were caused by the lights of fires in adjoining counties and in the State of New Jersey. Brilliant displays of the Aurora Borealis gave rise to several. Some were created by mischievous parties springing signal boxes. The setting of the river Delaware on fire by a Frenchman on one occasion, and the issuing of a thick mist from the Bank of Pennsylvania building on Chestnut street, at another time, was the

cause of the State House bell striking alarms. False alarms have been very rare for the last three months. This is to be attributed to the admirable course pursued by the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, in stopping the senseless ringing of the bells of engine and hose houses, without occasion.

The Fire Detective Department, of the police, during the year, arrested 89 persons on the charges of arson, attempting to commit arson, robbery and arson, suspicion of committing or intending to commit arson, conspiracy to perpetrate that crime, being accessory to it either before or after the fact, or both threatening to burn property, and instigating others to do it. *Number of convictions*, 12—being just one a month. Prior to the establishment of this branch of the police, the records of the Crimminal Court show that there were, in a period of thirty-seven years, only thirty-seven convictions for arson in Philadelphia, or an average of but one in every twelve months. Sometimes, there was not a single conviction for several successive years.

The total number of arrests, since the organization of the Fire Detective Police—now a period of nineteen months—is 181. Of these, 43 have been indicted, and 39 tried. The number of convictions have been 20, and the acquittals 19. Died in prison, after confessing guilt, and while awaiting trial on indictments, 2. Forfeited recognizances, after being indicted, and fled the country before trial, 2. Indictments remaining untried, 2; bills ignored, 5; cases awaiting action of the Grand Jury, 3; discharged by the Court of Quarter Session, after hearings on writs of *habeas corpus*, 8; held to bail by the Judges of the Criminal Court, to keep the peace, 4; forfeited bonds and fled from justice, before indictment, 5; died while awaiting trial on bail, 1; sent to insane hospitals, 3; killed, in escaping from police officers, 1; fugitive brought back from another State, 1; fugitives sent to other counties for trial, 4; awaiting sentence, 1; not sentenced, after plea

of guilty, on condition of emigrating to Africa, 1; charge of arson not pressed, after conviction for other offences, 3; arrested on suspicion of arson, and after examination committed to answer other charges, 5; discharged from prison by the Court in mistake, and fled beyond the reach of process, 1; bound over by magistrates to be of good behaviour, 46; reprimanded and discharged by the Mayor, Recorder, Chief of Police and Fire Marshal, 28; discharged by committing magistrates for want of proof, 15; escaped from officers in the dark, after being arrested, and never afterwards identified, 5.

Two of the parties arrested for incendiarism, but discharged from custody owing to the insufficiency of the evidence, subsequently met violent deaths—one of them having been murdered. Besides those arrested, 16 have run away—one escaping to England, and another to Germany—to avoid arrest, who were known or suspected to be guilty of incendiary acts. Some of the latter, after fleeing from the city, engaged in the naval, military, mercantile and other services of the country. At this time, likewise, several persons, strongly suspected of arson, are under the strict surveillance of the police.

I am gratified to be able to report to your honor a gradual decrease of the crime of arson. Since the creation of the Fire Detective Police, there has been a diminution in the number of cases of incendiarism of about forty per cent. During the past year a marked check has been given to this heinous offence. To prevent its perpetration for the future, and bring to justice those who may venture to commit it, all my energies, both mental and physical, will be unceasingly exerted. To assist me in this difficult and arduous labor, I appeal to every good citizen, and particularly to every good fireman. The dastardly wretch who would apply a torch that might involve the destruction of human life, besides the ruin of pro-

perty, should be shown no mercy; nay, receive no countenance anywhere. The true fireman cannot do otherwise than take a bold stand against such contemptible criminals. Last year, two incendiaries who were convicted, were arrested upon information furnished by members of fire companies. This fact, I assure you, sir, has afforded me a peculiar gratification. Every company that follows the example thus set, may rest assured of winning golden opinions from their fellow citizens.

While Philadelphia has been comparatively exempt from willful fires of late, an incendiary spirit has been running all through the country. Gangs of barn-burners have been at work in Bucks and Montgomery counties, and in the towns along the river Delaware, in New Jersey. In a number of the towns in Pennsylvania, and in numerous places in other States, this fiendish spirit has prevailed to an alarming extent for some months past. In Canada, too, many bold arsons have been lately perpetrated.

There is no doubt that the prompt and searching investigation which is now instituted, immediately on the occurrence of fires, will, in time, very much reduce, if it does not entirely prevent acts of incendiarism. When certain exposure and punishment follow close upon the offence, few will be tempted to run a risk that may prove at once profitless and ruinous.

The clever and able editor of the *Evening Bulletin*, Mr. Leland, thus writes in relation to fires and fire detection :

“In the cities, fire-telegraphs, steam-engines, judicious laws, and, equal to them almost in value, a wisely administered fire detective service, can, as experience has demonstrated, reduce loss to an incredibly low amount. When it is known, as it should be, that the incendiary is always followed up, that every little indication is registered, and that months or years after, justice is still busy on the track, incendia-

rism must soon cease. This patient, unforgiving, unforgetting perseverance should always characterize the fire detective service, and everybody should do their best to make it known."

Fires for the purpose of defrauding insurance companies, which were formerly of frequent occurrence, are now very rare. The cases of this kind that do now and then happen, are confined to a class of small dealers of doubtful repute. These people have been known to resort to some shrewd dodges to cover up their villany and baffle detection, but they are almost sure to be exposed. The paucity of such fires in the mercantile portions of the city, prove that the old race of Philadelphia merchants—business men of sterling integrity—is not yet extinct.

The motives that incite to the perpetration of arson, are but little understood. They are a subject full of interest to the moralist, and are the earliest guide to successful detection. The incitement to most of the incendiary acts that are perpetrated, is a spirit of thoughtless, reckless, wanton mischief. Spite and revenge are frequent incentives, and avariciousness is every now and then instigating its votaries to the commission of the crime. Sometimes, the human inclination to burn property, assumes the form of a disease. The disposition becomes a regular monomania. This malady is peculiar to the young of both sexes, and is witnessed the oftenest among children of the African race. Some of its phases are strange and unaccountable. Nothing is more puzzling to those who have to deal with crime than this moral disorder.

Last winter, three cases were fully investigated by me, where the object, it was evident, was to burn the premises in order to get the work of rebuilding them. Although every effort was made to punish the parties, they could never be legally reached, so completely was the criminal act covered up. In another remarkable case, a black girl was persuaded

by a white man to burn a barn, to give him the job of rebuilding it. Just a year afterwards, the same girl, at the instigation of the same man, burned the same barn. The young female, after making a full confession, died in prison. The implicated man was arrested, but the death of his guilty accomplice and accuser, saved him from being put upon his trial.

The means used to perpetrate arson are sometimes extraordinary. I have on record one case where an attempt was made by an ingeniously prepared infernal machine ; another by a jug of gunpowder and a lighted cigar. In another case, a quantity of phosphorous was thrown into a cowshed containing a bedding of shavings. In another, a ball of tarred cord, was ignited and pitched into a stall in the stable of a dairyman. A stable was set on fire by throwing a lighted cigar into the hay loft, through an open window. In another instance, a ball of blazing combustibles, was hurled through a broken window-pane into a sash factory. In still another case, a pair of ottomans, made of velvet carpeting, were taken from a parlor, and the shavings with which they were stuffed, used to kindle the fire. This was one of the most remarkable and interesting cases that ever came under my notice. Some of these acts were marked by astounding boldness.

However much it may be deplored, it is nevertheless true, that, among the rising generation, at the present time, there exists a perfect mania for fires. The mischief of boys of all ages, is getting to be the cause of quite a long list of small fires in the course of a year. The faithful execution of the recent order of your Honor, in relation to minors running with fire companies, will do much to cure this passion. There are to be found in all the purlieus of the metropolis, gangs of vicious lads, who fire places, some for excitement and amusement, and others for chances to pilfer. They hang about corners, and plot mischief and concoct rascality. Some of

them are vagabonds of the most depraved habits and wicked dispositions. They are deemed unfit for the House of Refuge, and for their restraint and reformation, a House of Correction is demanded.

Corner lounging in the evening, and the frequenting of drinking shops at late hours of the night by half-grown young men, are practices that lead to the perpetration of many wanton acts of incendiarism. The keeping open of such public houses until one, two, or three o'clock in the morning, especially on the Sabbath, as is often done, is an evil that should be corrected. I have known several arsons to be concocted in these places by minors, who when they sallied forth to commit them, were intoxicated almost to madness.

The Lucifer match, whether in the hands of the diabolical house or barn burner, or the mischievous urchin, or the unconscious child, or the silly idiot, or desperate madman, causes more destruction of property than all the other fire-producing agents put together. Its name is truly no misnomer. It therefore cannot be too strongly impressed upon every body—especially, as every body uses them—to observe caution in keeping them. They should never be left where a child, a dog, or a cat, or a rat, or a mouse, could reach them. The match safe ought to be an indispensable article of furniture in the kitchen and chamber of every well regulated household.

The large and daily increasing number of terrible and distressing accidents from camphene and burning fluid, ought to induce the utmost caution in regard to the use of these dangerous lights, which I should rejoice to see banished from the house of every family. The circumstances attending some of the casualties occasioned by them last year, were heart-rending in the extreme.

As a means of avoiding casual fires, and guarding against

accidents from burning, the following directions are considered worthy of a place in this report :

Keep matches in metal boxes, and out of the reach of children, and likewise away from parrots, jackdaws, and other pets.

Wax matches are particularly dangerous, and should be kept out of the way of rats or mice.

Be careful in making fires with shavings, and other light kindling.

Do not deposit coal or wood ashes in a wooden vessel, and be sure burning cinders are extinguished before they are deposited. An ash barrel on one's premises is never safe.

Never put fire-wood upon the top of a stove to dry.

Do not leave a lamp or candle burning upon the steps of a stairway, nor on a window-sill, bureau, trunk, or chest.

Never place ashes or a light under a staircase.

Do not put gas, or other lights near curtains.

Never replenish fluid or camphene lamps while lighted or heated. Fill these lamps only by daylight, and never near a fire or light.

Always be careful in extinguishing lucifers, tapers, and other lighters, before throwing them away.

Never pour out liquors within the range of an exposed light.

Covered lights should always be used when drawing turpentine, varnish, and other inflammable liquids.

Never throw a segar stump upon the floor, nor into a spit-box containing sawdust, without being certain that it retains no fire.

After blowing out a candle, never put it away upon a shelf, or any where else, until sure that the snuff has been entirely extinguished.

A lighted candle ought never to be stuck up against a frame wall, or left burning upon any portion of the wood-work in a stable, manufactory, shop, or other place.

Never enter a barn or stable at night with an uncovered light. In Baltimore, there is an ordinance inflicting a penalty for carrying an open light into a stable after nightfall.

Ostlers should never smoke pipes about stables.

Never take an open light to examine gas meters.

Do not read in bed by candle or lamp-light.

Never take a light into a closet.

Place glass shades over gas lights in show windows, and do not crowd goods too close to them.

No smoking should ever be permitted in warehouses, especially where goods are packed, or cotton, rags, or paper stored.

In feed establishments and broom stores, gas lights ought to be covered with tin shades, and no portable light should be used, except a brass lantern.

An open light should never be carried into a spirit room, or into an apartment where gas is escaping.

Never leave drying clothes too near a fire-place or stove, on going to bed.

Stove-pipes should be at least four inches from wood-work, which ought to be well guarded by tin.

Do not deposit oily rags in a closet.

Never leave a dog, a cat, or a monkey in a room where articles of wearing apparel, or bed or table linen, are drying on a clothes-horse, or a towel stand, around a fire.

All wood-work should be at least eight inches from steam-pipes, and furnace flues and registers.

The principal register of a furnace should always be fastened open.

In cotton factories, do not neglect to keep the machinery well oiled.

Never leave young children locked up in a room where there is either fire or matches.

Rags ought never to be stuffed in stove-pipe holes.

Do not leave shavings, or other light fuel, near a furnace, fire, or a steam boiler.

Never place a stove too close to a fire-board.

Use wax tapers to light gas, instead of paper lighters.

Never hold an uncovered light close to a window or bed curtain.

Gas lights ought never to be placed nearer than twelve inches to woodwork or ceilings.

Openings into chimney flues for stove pipes, which are not used, ought always to be securely protected by metallic coverings.

On leaving a store, office, or other place, where fires are kept all night, never close a stove door after putting in fresh coal.

On detecting the escape of gas, have the pipes examined at once, and all leaks discovered, repaired without delay.

Wood, when permitted to remain within four inches of a heater, hot air conductor, or register, must in the course of time, become so dry and inflammable, as to be subject to or in danger of ignition at any moment. Where fire takes place from the charring of wood too near furnace flues, a smell like the overheating or scorching of pine wood, is observable for several hours previous to the breaking out of the fire. Upon the discovery of the first premonitory symptoms, an examination should be immediately made around the registers and furnace.

Fire Marshal Baker, of New York, in one of his able reports, in mentioning a newly discovered cause of fires, says: "Laborers employed in the construction of new buildings, have a careless habit of throwing rubbish from the top of the premises down the chimney flues, in the belief that it will reach the bottom. Chimneys, in this way, become choked, and on making the first fire, an accident occurs. After a building is finished, chimney flues should be examined, to see

that they are clear, by dropping a plumb-line down them." The same careless practice prevails among workmen in Philadelphia, and should be avoided.

Never close up a place of business in the evening without looking well to the extinguishment of lights, and the proper security of fires.

When retiring to rest at night, always see that there is no danger from your fires, and be sure that your lights are safe.

The above directions, if carefully observed, it is believed, will prevent many fires, and preserve not a few valuable lives. They interest everybody, and are a sure guide and constant monitor in regard to the use of fires and lights.

For the prevention of incendiary fires, the following recommendations will be found to be deserving of particular consideration :

Owners or occupants of properties should exercise the utmost care in protecting them against the intrusion of incendiaries, by strong and safe doors, windows, gates, fences and other securities.

No combustible materials, such as shavings, hay, straw, rags, paper, waste cotton, fodder, dried leaves, or trash or light rubbish of any sort, should ever be left in exposed situations about shops, manufactories, mills, barns, stables, store-houses, lumber yards, sheds, outhouses, or any other premises. Such refuse articles always afford the readiest means at hand to facilitate the perpetration of the crime of arson.

The security of unoccupied buildings and unfinished houses, should never be neglected. Vacated dwelling houses are often left so insecure as to become the resort of bad boys for play and mischief, and the most untiring watchfulness on the part of the police is not unfrequently necessary in order to prevent them from being burned. New buildings in progress of erection are seldom secure from the intrusion of incen-

diaries. Workmen go away at the close of the day, leaving the doors and windows either without any protection at all, or with fastenings so weak that a push or a kick is all that is required to gain admission, while every floor, from the cellar to the garret, is strewn with shavings, sawdust, and other combustibles. Such properties are sometimes a source of no little uneasiness to the vigilant and faithful patrolman.

Farmers in the rural wards of the city, should use every possible precaution as to the strength and safety of the fastenings of their barns, stables, carriage-houses and other buildings. The windows of barns ought never to be allowed to remain open, with hay or straw protruding from them, and the doors of these buildings should always be locked at night.

All openings made in the walls of stables, to give air to horses, should be wired on the inside. I have on record a case of incendiarism, which a miserable creature perpetrated by inserting an ignited match through one of a number of auger holes bored to ventilate a stall in which a horse was standing. The loose hay that hung down from the loft into the rack, was fired, and the poor beast shockingly burned before he was rescued.

Kindling-wood in cellars should never be piled near a window.

Farmers should never stack hay near to a frequented road or lane, when they can avoid it. Hay-ricks close by the roadside are tempting objects to strolling vagabonds and vicious juveniles, affected with a mania for burning.

No wayfarer or vagrant should ever be permitted to sleep in the haymow of a barn or the loft of a stable, who has a pipe, a cigar, a tinder-box, or a match, especially if under the influence of drink. A number of fires in the country are caused by the carelessness of these people.

The most effectual preventive of incendiary fires is cautious-

ness in securing property from depredation. The incendiary, unlike the burglar, does not break locks, bolts and bars. Wherever access can be obtained without difficulty, it is there he applies his torch. His diabolical work has to be done quickly, and speedy flight is his surest shield from discovery. The noise of a forcible entrance may sound an alarm, and if he delays, though but for a moment, after striking the match, the sight of the very fire he has kindled may detect him.

For the further prevention of fires, whether accidental or incendiary, I would advise the employment of private watchmen for blocks of unfinished buildings, large factories, livery stables, board-yards, and other extensive establishments.

The following directions given by me in a previous report, respecting the management of fires in their early state, I deem it important to repeat: "On the first discovery of a fire requiring the services of the firemen, all doors, windows, or other openings to a building, should be kept closed until the engines arrive, and are ready to put on the water. This should invariably be done, and the police ought in all such cases, to make it a paramount duty. Of course this attention will not be so essential in cases where the officer finds he can control the fire by beating or stamping it out, drowning it with a few buckets of water, or extinguishing it by any other means ready at hand."

The police of London understand shutting up fires so well that they have, in many instances, kept fires, two or three miles distant from the engine stations, shut up till the firemen arrived in time to extinguish them. There a policeman who discovers a fire, and gives the first alarm, receives a reward of half a guinea from the insurance office interested, and there is no reason, I think, why our underwriters would not find it to their interest to offer a similar incentive. At any rate, they might try the experiment, say for a year. I feel satisfied that time would demonstrate the policy as well as justice of the practice.

In the event of a fire on the premises of a farmer, or at the country-seat of a gentleman in the rural wards, the engines from the nearest villages do not usually reach the scene of conflagration in time to save the building in which the fire commenced, but they generally succeed in preventing the flames from extending to the adjacent buildings. The want of water is often a serious obstacle to success in mastering the devastating element. Where there is a scarcity of water on farm seats, I would recommend the construction of artificial ponds within a convenient distance of the buildings on the place. These ponds would yield an abundant supply of water for the extinguishment of any ordinary agricultural fire, before it had time to extend much beyond the building in which it originated.

The covers to hatchways in warehouses, stores, and factories should always be shut down at night. When closed, in case of a fire in the building, they help to confine it, but when raised up, a strong draught is created, and thus the progress of the flames is certain to be accelerated. Besides, hatches, when open, are frightful man-traps to brave firemen effecting an entrance in the dark through upper windows in pursuit of the fire.

In the last report made by me to Mayor Vaux, in April, 1858, I urged the necessity of a mounted police for the rural wards, as the only reliable means of guarding life and property in those parts of the metropolis from the depredations of incendiaries and other criminals. A further experience of nine months has only served to confirm me in my belief of the absolute need of this preventive force. The duties of my office call me to almost every nook and corner of the First, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, and Twenty-third Wards, and I have had the most ample evidence presented to me in favor of making this addition to the police department.

The experiment of a mounted patrol, upon a limited scale, tried now for about a year at Chestnut Hill, has accomplished all that the citizens of that beautiful locality could desire. Not an arson has been committed there since the detail of that small force, and depredations upon the dwellings of the wealthy gentlemen who reside there, that were once so alarming, are now unheard of. I would, therefore, urge upon Councils the pressing importance of the measure I have proposed. Since I first suggested the organization, New York has added to her police department a mounted patrol of thirty men for the region of her mammoth Central Park, and other parts of her semi-rural wards.

Along our wide extended Delaware city front and beyond the beats of the policemen on the avenues, besides the shipping in port, there is a vast amount of property of great value, comprising goods *in transitu*, temporary storage sheds, ferry houses, screw-docks, boat sheds, lumber yards, mast sheds, shipyards, mills, machine works, factories, wood yards, shops, &c., at all hours of the night, liable to the depredations of the incendiary, to which the present police arrangements can offer but a very inadequate protection. For the better security of this property, I am persuaded that the time has arrived when the organization of a river police is necessary, and I throw out the suggestion for the consideration of your Honor and the members of the City Councils.

The Fire Underwriters of New York employ a body of men, called the "Insurance Patrol," for the protection of properties in the business parts of the city, on which they have the heaviest risks. They are about sixty strong. At night, one half of them do patrol duty among the valuable stores, big warehouses, heavy forwarding depots, &c., while the other half remains at the station. The patrolmen are always on the alert for the first indication of fire. On the alarm being given, the men at the station drag with them a light

wagon containing axes, buckets, hose, oil cloth coverings, and other implements and appliances for the extinguishment of fires in an incipient state, and the protection of goods. So valuable are the services of the patrol, that notwithstanding it costs the insurance companies the snug little sum of \$30,000 a year, they consider it cheap, and the money well spent, such is the saving to them in the prevention of losses. I would suggest to the Fire Underwriters of this city, the formation of a similar force. Many fires might, with such a body of men ever on the watch, be suppressed in their incipency, and a vast amount of property saved.

I am constantly met, at the outset of my investigations, by the story that a place has been set on fire, when an examination will prove such a thing to have been utterly impossible. Numbers of persons get into their heads the idea of design, and they will contend to the last that they are right—advancing the most absurd and ridiculous theories—and even when convinced by the most cogent reasoning, based upon the most reliable testimony, they are of “the same opinion still,” because having been convinced against their will.

Several weeks since a fire commenced in a manufactory, at an early hour in the morning, which, but for its quick discovery and prompt extinguishment, would have proved a serious conflagration. The fire began in a box of sawdust, in which a number of oily polishing rags had been left by the workmen. Spontaneous combustion ensued in eight hours. The proprietor of the concern insisted that the fire was the work of an incendiary, and all reasoning failed to convince him to the contrary. There was, however, an entire absence of any evidence to sustain the theory of design, and the case was so plain to my mind, that I pursued the investigation no further.

A few months ago, two fires occurred within the space of ten days, on the premises of a baker. Both were charged to design on the part of some unknown enemy. The matter was probed to the bottom by a cautious examination, and the sup-

posed enemy soon turned out to be a myth. The baker was in the habit, when he wanted the fires to go down, of pulling out the hot coals from under his oven into a sheet iron pan. The first fire was caused by putting this pan of live coals too near to the weather-boarding of a shed. The second fire was occasioned by pushing the pan of coals, after the fire they retained, it was foolishly thought, had died out, under the kneading-trough. At the time the latter fire happened, the baker was sleeping upon a table in the very room where it started, and slumbering unconsciously with the floor burning away within a few feet of him, came very near forfeiting his life as the penalty of his own folly.

It is surprising how reluctant some people are to acknowledge that a casualty like a fire, could, by any possibility, occur from their own neglect or heedlessness. Hence, they eagerly grasp at the idea of design. Arson is certainly the most convenient theory. It saves the trouble and annoyance of inquiry, and relieves of all responsibility as to negligence or carelessness. Sometimes though, those who adopt it without consideration, discover themselves in rather awkward predicaments, and are glad to yield their position, however rashly taken and stubbornly adhered to.

Some time ago, on asking a merchant how his place caught fire, he unhesitatingly and positively asserted that the fire was the work of an incendiary. On proving to him that the building, owing to the condition in which it was found when the fire was discovered, could not have been entered from without, (the store was burned at night, after it was closed up,) he suggested that the incendiary must have been concealed in the building at the time of closing. Satisfying him that an intruder could not have effected his exit, after applying the match, he was silent. It was plain now that if any arson was committed, somebody about the establishment was the offender. But the reputation of the house forbade such a supposition,

and then no sign of motive was evident anywhere. He at once joined me in a patient investigation, and we were not long in tracing the origin of the fire to the negligence of an employee, who after repeated stout denials, admitted that it was the case.

As an evidence of the absurdities in which such persons indulge, the Fire Marshal will be told that the incendiary scaled high walls, climbed over half a block of yard fences, clambered over sheds and mounted roofs, (incendiaries do no such thing, or my experience has been woefully at fault,) entered second-story back windows, and descended into garrets through traps. Before this year passes, it would not astonish me to hear some one asserting—say, where a fire in a house has been caused by the carelessness of a servant girl or some one else, who is unwilling to admit it—that an incendiary actually came down the chimney, and even went out, perhaps, the same way!

A history of all the fires that occur in Philadelphia in the period of a twelve month, would be highly interesting. The incidents of some of the cases, would form a graphic and exciting chapter. Many of these occurrences are singular and strange; some deeply mysterious and puzzling; others, extraordinary and amazing. Again, there are cases that are amusing; and then again others that are sorrowful. The limits of my report, however, forbid my giving any of the reminiscences of a fire detective.

The introduction of steam into the department, I look upon as the entering wedge to the greatest reform that has ever been heretofore witnessed. The steam fire engine has already achieved a triumph, of which its original advocates (almost everybody is in favor of it now) may well be proud. Its undisputed success has disarmed prejudice, and all misgivings in relation to its practicability and usefulness, have vanished. The general introduction of these powerful and valuable

machines for the extinguishment of fires, which another year will witness, will be hailed as, and must mark a bright era in the history of the Philadelphia Fire Department. The drawing of apparatus to fires by horses, will do more to rid the department of that abominable nuisance of fires and alarms—I refer to the juvenile rabble—so long deplored, than all the police regulations that can be adopted. Our City Fathers, fire underwriters, business men, and owners of property of every class, should extend to the new means of fire-extinguishing the most liberal support.

That old and time-honored organization, the Philadelphia Hose Company No. 1, which was the pioneer in steam apparatus, should never cease to be remembered for their noble advocacy of this great modern improvement for the preservation of property from the ravages of that dreaded spoiler, the fire-fiend.

The active and enterprising members of that highly respectable and favorite organization, the Diligent Engine Company, likewise deserve to be favorably remembered for their intelligent, enterprising, and persevering exertions in remodeling the steam engine Young America, which, at the Lawrence street conflagration the other day, proved herself, under the able direction of the Diligent members, a tremendous fire-extinguisher.

The enterprise of the Hope Hose Company, in securing a steam fire engine for the protection of the government stores and other valuable properties in the south-eastern part of the city, has elicited the praise of hundreds of their fellow-citizens, and their beautiful apparatus, the production of Philadelphia artizans, is pronounced by their brother firemen, and all others who have seen it perform, the model steamer of the department.

It affords me peculiar pleasure to inform your Honor that the Fire Department of Philadelphia has never been, within

my recollection, (and I speak from a direct personal knowledge and close observation of twenty years,) so orderly and efficient as it is at the present time. The election, last fall, for Chief Engineer, owing to a warm feeling of partizanship between the adherents of the two rival candidates, upon which the department, now almost one hundred companies strong, was very nearly equally divided, gave rise to considerable acerbity. This feeling, though, I am happy to say, is gradually dying away, and mutual sentiments of a more manly and magnanimous nature, taking its place. The Chief Engineer, Samuel P. Fearon, Esq., has, since his re-election, taken a firm position in favor of the maintenance of exact discipline. All companies disposed to be refractory and to indulge in rowdyism, have been promptly brought to an account, and compelled to submit to wholesome regulations. The good results have been so apparent as to attract the attention of the whole community. I have ever been myself a strict disciplinarian, and the course of the worthy Chief in checking and restraining insubordination, has met my fullest approbation. In whatever he is right, Councils, and the community at large, should, and no doubt, will feel it a pleasure to sustain him. His position is a laborious, arduous and harassing one, and he is entitled to, and should receive the most generous encouragement in his efforts to maintain good order, and secure efficiency.

I feel it to be my duty to call the attention of your Honor to the fact of the great want of fire-plugs in many localities in the suburbs, to which improvements have extended. A recent fire on a windy night, in the vicinity of Germantown avenue and Seventh street, showed an urgent need of additional plugs in that neighborhood. This matter is deserving of the earliest attention of Councils.

I am opposed to any further increase of companies in the fire department, where it can be safely avoided, yet I am

forced to acknowledge that there is a pressing necessity for at least one, if not two companies, to be located in the Nineteenth Ward. In the whole of that portion of this extensive ward, comprising what was the former District of Richmond, where there is an immense amount of valuable property, much of which is greatly exposed, there is not a solitary fire apparatus. The admission into the department by Councils of the Kensington Engine, and a new organization, called the "Key-stone Engine Company," would supply the deficiency in that growing part of the metropolis.

I cannot close this portion of my report, without expressing my most heartfelt acknowledgments to the Chief Engineer, his able assistants, his accomplished and gentlemanly clerk, and to the officers and members of the department, individually and generally, for the deep obligations under which they have placed me, by the pleasant courtesy that they have extended to me on all occasions, and by the cheerful and important assistance they have rendered me in my investigations into the origin of fires and exertions to ferret out incendiaries.

The police and fire alarm telegraph, under the control and direction of its clever and able superintendent, Mr. Philips, and the management of his corps of polite and attentive assistants, has triumphed over every vestige of prejudice and opposition, and has attained the very proudest position among the departments of the city government. It is the most powerful arm of the police and fire departments, and, as an agent for good, its usefulness to the entire community cannot be rated. Its popularity is universal, and our citizens could not be induced to do without it for an hundred times its cost. Being, at all hours of the day and night, within hearing of the tinkle of its tiny bells, I can bear the strongest testimony to its immeasurable worth.

There is but one drawback to the complete success of the fire alarm telegraph, and that is the want of signal boxes in

certain localities, not only in the suburbs, but in the thickly populated parts of the city. There should be a larger number, and more judicious arrangement of boxes. Several fires occurred last year in the southern and northern sections of the city, one or two of which were quite destructive, where the policeman of the beat had to run half a mile to give the alarm. To cite instances: For a fire at Front and Moore streets, the alarm came from Second and Washington streets, there being no signal boxes south of the line of Washington street; and for two other fires, one at Germantown avenue and Oxford street, and the other at Germantown avenue and Sixth street, the alarm was given from Fifth street and Girard avenue.

I would recommend that there should be a wire run out Brown street, from Second, there being but three alarm boxes between Callowhill street and Girard avenue, and from Second to Broad street, viz: at Ninth and Green streets, Ninth and Poplar streets, and Twelfth and Coates streets. I would further recommend the placing of signal boxes at the following points, or as near to them as can be conveniently done, viz.: Fourth and Brown streets, Ninth and Brown streets, Sixth and Poplar streets, Seventh and Jefferson streets, Ninth and Oxford streets, Germantown avenue and Thompson street, Germantown avenue and Columbia street, Germantown avenue and Seventh street, Girard avenue and Hanover street, Water and Chestnut streets, Eleventh and Walnut streets, Seventeenth and Walnut streets, Twenty-third and Walnut streets, Twenty-second and Pine streets, Fourth and Catharine streets, Sixth and Shippen streets, Eleventh and Catharine streets, Third and Wharton streets, Fifth and Dickerson streets, Sixth and Reed streets, Ninth street and Passyunk road, and Eleventh and Federal streets. There should also be several additional boxes, suitably located, in West Phila-

delphia. Boxes might likewise be placed, with much advantage, in the houses of a number of the fire companies.

This arrangement, I think, would be judicious, and would make the line about as complete as could be desired. I would most respectfully submit to your Honor the propriety of your directing the special attention of Councils to this matter. Their speedy action in the premises is urgently demanded by a due regard for the safety of property.

Next to a keen and faithful policeman, in the prevention of arson, is light. The skulking incendiary dreads the tell-tale glare of a bright lamp. Additional lamps are sadly needed in the southern, southwestern, and other sections of the city. The fluid lamp is at best a poor apology for a light, and many of those now in use are everywhere in a miserable state. They should be dispensed with, and their places supplied with gas lamps as soon as possible.

The main dependence, though, after all, for the prevention and detection of incendiarism, is an able-bodied, watchful, shrewd, upright, brave, and well disciplined police. The policeman who never skulks, or winks at crime, who is ever on the alert, whom no sympathy or appeal can influence, is dreaded by the sneaking incendiary; whereas, the negligent, weak, corrupt, and pusillanimous officer, who can be hoodwinked and deceived, or approached and influenced, is despised. Our present police organization, although it has been gradually improving in character, discipline and efficiency since consolidation, is, nevertheless, still imperfect, and, in many respects, unreliable. It can never be what it ought to be, or what the community demands it should be, until the mode of appointments is radically changed. Sad experience has demonstrated, beyond all cavil, that political appointments in the police department are wrong, and that as long as they continue to be made, the public will constantly suffer, and the policeman will never be respected, and his office will

always be a bone of petty contention, and his name a byword and a reproach.

The day has come, when police appointments should be made for individual merit and qualifications, irrespective of politics, religion, or nativity, and the appointees retained during good behaviour, and, while in place, held to a strict accountability by the most rigid discipline. In fact, the discipline of the force should be equal in rigidity to that of the army and navy. The patrolman, during his tour of duty, should be taught to feel that he was ever a sentinel on guard, and that he could never desert his post without disgrace. He should also feel that every life and every property on his beat was sacredly committed to his care.

The London policeman, as he walks his rounds, erect and manly, in his neat insignia of office, with truncheon in hand, is beheld with admiration, and viewed as the embodiment of the English law. His person is sacred and his word supreme. None dare touch him, and none would disobey him. If he should be wrong, there is a prompt and just tribunal to which he is amenable. The Empire City of America, ever progressive, has caught the idea, and is following in the footsteps of London. Shall it be said of Philadelphia—the great metropolis of American intelligence and wealth—that she is behind New York in municipal progress? I cannot believe it. Old foggyism and political supremacy have run their race, and public sentiment is now ripe for this much desired reform.

For the protection of property from the torch of the incendiary, however efficacious may be the labors of the detective, the preventive branch of the police is unquestionably the most effective. In contending with any crime in the calendar, indeed, prevention is more than half the battle. In a large growing metropolis like Philadelphia, a police force, besides being permanent and well-disciplined, should be numerically strong enough to do, and do successfully what it undertakes

to do. However good its material and perfect its discipline, if it is so deficient in numbers as to be inefficient on that account, there had almost better be no police organization at all. Then every man would cease to depend upon the watchman, and would rely upon his own resources for defence.

We have a municipal guard of 650 men. With this small force, we have undertaken to protect \$350,000,000 of property in a territorial area that has a circumference of 75 miles. Nine square miles of this area is solidly covered with bricks and mortar. In the same area, in addition to the original city proper, and adjoining incorporated districts, there are at least fifty villages.

In the centre of the city, many of the beats are so large that a night patrolman cannot traverse them more than once every hour. In the southern section of the town, some of the smallest beats are nine squares long by four wide. In the south-western part of the First Ward, a single beat is bounded by Seventeenth street, South street, Gray's Ferry Road and Federal street. South of Federal street, where nearly all the brick yards are located, there is no police protection whatsoever. On the Schuylkill front, where there are extensive lumber yards, huge factories, large stables, &c., and a population notoriously lawless, there are but four men on duty at night from Vine to South streets, and from Twenty-first street to the river. In the whole of West Philadelphia, one of the most beautiful and rapidly improving parts of the city, there are only five men for each tour during the night. In the Nineteenth Ward, some of the beats are a mile long. In the favorite village of Germantown, which is increasing in wealth and inhabitants with astonishing rapidity, and where splendid mansions and ornate villas are fast dotting numerous newly opened and handsome avenues, there are but four officers for each tour of night duty, and some of the beats so extensive that if a man faithfully patrols them once during

his tour, he is doing well. In the Twenty-first Ward, there are beats which it would take a policeman all night to go over, and others in the rural wards which he could hardly traverse in twenty-four hours. In the whole twenty-four wards, there are less than one hundred men on duty in day time. More than one-half of the entire consolidated city has no police protection whatever, either night or day.

The city and county of New York, embracing the whole of Manhattan island, contains 26 square miles, only about 7 of which is thickly built. The city and county, or consolidated city of Philadelphia, contains 130 square miles, 9 of which are thickly built. The difference between the built-up portions of the two cities is this: New York is compact, while Philadelphia expands, and thus covers a larger space. In New York, there are 1185 police officers of all ranks, while Philadelphia has but 698. New York is now demanding an increase of her police, on the ground that the present number is inadequate. The present police force of Philadelphia is altogether insufficient to prevent and detect crime, and afford due protection to life and property. I do not hesitate to say that the consolidated city cannot be safely guarded by a man less than 1000 policemen.

A word to the firemen. Active, self-sacrificing and heroic men,—you have been abused; yes, often more so than you merited. But your fellow citizens appreciate you, and you have a powerful hold upon their affections. Your nobility of character is ever the theme of the press, and virtuous woman never fails to come to your rescue. Still, you have your faults, and you should hereafter emulate each other in amending them. Then let feuds and riots cease. They are disgraceful to the fair renown of your organization, and lead to the commission of crime. Again: you have been accused of making fires for the sake of the excitement they afforded. This no one believes any true-hearted fireman ever did. In-

deed, I am sure you would scorn such an act. But you know as well as I know, and the public know, that reckless, heartless young scamps, who have hung upon your skirts and assumed your names, have done these things. This fact is patent, and cannot be denied. "A fire for a run"—this is a common jest. You have it in your power to check this mischief, which brings odium upon your fame. Take a bold stand, then. Place yourselves upon the side of the law and its stern executors. Do not fear to meet the evil. The firing of a building is a cowardly deed. An incendiary is a despicable poltroon. Show him no quarter. The public will applaud your course, and you will win fresh laurels.

The following admirable remarks on the subject of the best means of preventing and arresting fires, are extracted from a paper presented to the Society of Arts by Mr. James Braidwood, Superintendent of the London Fire Brigade :

"Some years ago, upwards of £100,000 were lost through the partner of a large concern lighting gas with a piece of paper, which he threw away, and thus set fire to the premises, although it was a strict rule in the place that gas should only be lighted with tapers, which were provided for that purpose, In one department of a great public institution, it was and is still a rule, that only covered lights should be carried about, and for that purpose four lanterns were provided ; yet on inquiry, some time back, it was found that only one was entire, the other three being broken—one having lost two sides and the top ; still they were all used as covered lights.

"The opportunities for inattention to fires and lights are so various, that it is impossible to notice the whole. Incautiously approaching window and bed curtains with a light, and airing linen before the fire, are almost daily causes of fire in London, and some of the most distressing cases of loss of life have originated from these and similar causes. Children playing with fire, is also another constant cause of fire and

frequent loss of life. The dresses of females taking fire adds very much to the list of lives lost by fire, if it does not exceed all the other causes put together. Taking off the burning coals from a fire, and laying them on the hearth, also causes fires occasionally. Reading in bed by candle light is another source of the same evil. A very serious annual loss is also caused by want of due care in hanging up or removing the goods in linen drapers' shop windows when the gas is burning. Flues taking fire often result in mischief, and it is believed that many serious fires have arisen from this cause, which can hardly be called accidental, as, if flues are properly constructed, kept moderately clean, and fairly used, they cannot take fire.

“From what has been said, it will be seen that care and attention will do a very great deal towards the prevention of fire and consequent loss of life. It is very easy to make good rules and keep them for a time, after having been alarmed by some serious loss of property or life; but the difficulty is to maintain constant attention to the subject. The most evident plan for effecting this seems to be for the masters thoroughly to examine and consider the subject at certain stated periods, not too far apart, and to constantly warn their domestics, workmen, or others, of the danger of the improper use of fire and lights.

“There is another very common cause of fire, which seems to come under the head of construction, viz: covering up a fire-place, when not in use, with wood, or paper and canvass, &c. The soot falls into the fire place, either from the flue itself, or from an adjoining one, which communicates with it. A neighboring chimney takes fire, a spark falls down the blocked-up flue, sets fire to the soot in the fire-place, which smoulders till the covering is burned through, and thus sets fire to the premises.

“It may often be observed, after a house has been on fire, that one floor is comparatively untouched, while those above

and below are nearly burned out. This arises from the doors on that particular floor having been shut, and the draught directed elsewhere. If the fire appears at all serious, and there are fire engines at a reasonable distance, it is best to await their arrival, as many buildings have been lost from opening the doors and attempting to extinguish fires with inadequate means. If no apparatus is within reach, the best thing is to collect as many buckets outside the room on fire as can be obtained, keeping the door shut; then creep into the room on the hands and knees (if the heat and smoke are considerable) and throw the water as nearly in the direction of the fire as possible, keeping the door shut while more water is being collected."

The Fire Marshal earnestly solicits attention to the suggestions made in this report for the hindrance and repression of fires. All occurrences of fire will be promptly investigated by him, and he particularly requests all citizens of every class and condition in life, to send him the earliest information of any fire, however trivial, that may happen on their premises. Where arson is suspected, all communications made to him will be sacred.

The penal code of Pennsylvania, being about to undergo a complete revision, various radical changes will perhaps be recommended for the action of the Legislature by the Legal Commission appointed by the Governor for the purpose. I would suggest that there be such an alteration of the statute against arson, as to make the penalty for setting fire, in the night time, to any building in which human beings may be sleeping—DEATH. The deterring effect of such an enactment, would do more to check the incendiary spirit that prevails in our city, than all the vigilance of the patrol officer or the acutest sagacity of the detective.

The New York statute has four degrees of arson—the first degree, which is the firing of any building in which some

human being is sleeping or lodging, being punished with hanging. In that State, there are two persons under sentence of death at this time, one in the city of New York and the other in Albany. In Massachusetts, the penalty of arson is imprisonment for life. In several other States in the Union, this horrible crime is punished with death.

I cannot close this report without expressing my obligations to the Chief of Police, Mr. Ruggles, and to the Lieutenants, Sergeants, and Policemen of the several divisions, for their courtesy to me individually, and likewise for their prompt and cheerful execution of all orders emanating from me. These gentlemen have rendered me valuable assistance in making my investigations, and I have received from them every mark of kindness and respect.

In conclusion, permit me, sir, to tender to you my sincere thanks for the warm interest you have taken in the fire detective branch of the police, as well as for the wise counsel you have, at all times, given me as to the performance of my delicate and responsible duties. My warmest gratitude is also due to you for your uniform kindness to me personally. For the future, accept the assurance that no effort shall be wanting on my part to prove myself worthy of the confidence you have so generously reposed in me.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

ALEXANDER W. BLACKBURN,

Fire Marshal.